Stourbridge
CHRONICLE

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CHURCH IN LOTTO BID FOR FUNDS

Guest — Margot James MP

Report by Heather Large

A LOTTERY funding bid for £160,400 is being drawn up to pay towards urgent repairs to crumbling stonework at a landmark Stourbridge church.

Grade I listed St Thomas's Church in Market Street has already been awarded a small grant so campaigners to save the church can begin drawing up restoration plans. The project will also see alterations made to the 18th century building, including the creation of a permanent access ramp and the addition of modern toilet facilities.

Churchwarden Wendy Hemming said: "The stage one funding we have been granted is £12,400 and we are hoping to be granted the second stage of £160,400.

"The project is for urgent masonry repairs to the crumbling stonework on the building, and to provide a permanent access ramp, WC facilities within the building and a part-glazed inner door to the south porch.

"The second round bid is for 68 per cent of the total project costs and the remainder we must raise from other grant-making bodies and from fundraising events."

The church fundraising is already under way with the church hosting a flower festival from July 3 to 6 with money raised going towards the project.

The opening of the festival will be carried out by guests Mayor of Dudley Councillor Steve Waltho and Stourbridge MP Margot James at 11am on Friday, July 3.

More than 20 floral arrangements will be on display and entertainment will be provided by the University of the 3rd Age recorder group at 2.30 pm and by Stourbridge Amateur Operatic Choir on July 4 at 2.30pm. Admission to the festival costs £2 including a programme.

Public

The church's history began in 1726 when people, fed up of trekking to church in Oldswinford, began raising funds for a new chapel through public subscription. Construction work on the church building, which cost £2,300, was completed in 1736 while the tower was finished in 1759.

Over the years, changes have been made to the building including the addition of entrance porches in 1890 and a church hall in 1910.

The community spirit has remained strong and the church is a focus for many groups including scout and brownie packs and the Mothers' Union.

Over the past decade,the church has been successful in raising funds for repairs on the roof, floors and organ.

Father dies after being struck by car

A FATHER who was hit by a car in Dudley as he strapped his child into the back seat of the family Peugeot has died.

The man, believed to be in his 40s and from Halesowen, was seriously injured after being struck by a Volkswagen Polo in Oakham Road at around 3pm on Saturday near the junction with Tansley Hill Avenue.

He was flown by Air Ambulance to Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital where he subsequently died of his injuries.

Residents rushed to the family's aid and carried out CPR on the father, who wasn't breathing, until paramedics arrived.

His wife and two young children had to be cut free from the green Peugeot 206 by firefighters and were treated for minor injuries.

Flowers were placed at the crash scene as residents spoke of their shock over the tragedy.

Kyra Thomas, aged 42, who was among those who tried to help the family, said: "It's heartbreaking.

"I can't get it out of my head, it's not something you expect to happen. It's horrendous —just getting in the car."

11-year-old boy escapes gang of men

FOUR men attempted to abduct an 11-year-old boy in a Netherton street.

Police say the youngster was approached in St George's Road by the men at around 5pm on Thursday, June 18. They asked the boy to get into their light coloured BMW, but he kicked one of the group and ran away. Police are investigating the incident and said specialist officers are speaking with the boy and his parents.

Meanwhile, parents have been warned to be on their guard following reports of a man trying to lure a schoolgirl into his car in Tipton.

Police are carrying out extra patrols after the infant pupil was approached by a man in a black Mercedes last Wednesday.

The girl was ahead of her mother in Bramah Way when the car pulled alongside her and a man started speaking to her. The child went back towards her mother but the man kept calling to her and started to open the car door. Both mother and child ran off.

The man was described as Asian, aged 40 to 50, with a grey and black beard.

Warm up with the Dancing Grannies

Fizzog's Dancing Grannies, as played by Deb Nicholls, Jacky Fellows and Sue Hawkins, are pictured with road race organiser Alan Bowler

Internet stars at race

INTERNET sensations the Dancing Grannies, as played by comedy troupe The Fizzogs, will host the warm-up session for this year's Black Country Run.

Organised by the Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary Club with Halesowen Athletics Association, the run will take place on July 5 as part of the Black Country Festival.

The Fizzogs, who became famous when their Dancing Grannies at Stourbridge Carnival went viral on the internet, will be helping runners to limber up for the 10k route, which sets off from Somers Square, Halesowen.

Runners taking part when it starts at 9am will be invited to join the Fizzogs-led warm-up and dance their way into the run, which Mayor Councillor Steve Waltho, will be starting, before he himself joins the mayoress in the 5k run at 11am.

Steve Edwards, chairman of the Black Country Festival, said: "The Fizzogs really demonstrate their brilliant sense of humour in a way that is enjoyable and entertaining for people of all ages. By asking them to come in and warm up the runners will hopefully get people laughing their way at the start and the finish line."

Following the race in Halesowen, the mayor and mayoress will head for Stourbridge Carnival in the afternoon where the Black Country Festival continues.

ATTACK

Teenager is found with stab wounds

A TEENAGER was taken to hospital after being found with stab wounds to his stomach in a Sedgley street.

Police were called to Beacon Lane at around 9pm on Friday night and the 17-year-old was then taken to hospital for treatment.

The teenager's condition was said to be stable. Officers sealed off an area of Beacon Lane while forensic examinations took place. Anyone who witnessed the attack is urged to contact police on 101, or to call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

CANALS

£1.3m to be spent improving towpaths

CANAL towpaths will be improved as part of a £1.3 million scheme to encourage walking and cycling between Stourbridge and Kingswinford.

The work is being carried out by public transport co-ordinator Centro in partnership with the Canal and River Trust and Dudley Council.

Councillor Hilary Bills said the initial phase of work to improve the canal towpath would be on the stretch between the Bonded Warehouse in Stourbridge and Wordsley's Kinver Street basin.

PLANNING

Decision to be made over King Arthur pub

THE end is in sight for the landmark King Arthur pub with councillors being recommended to approve plans to flatten it to make way for a new Aldi supermarket.

The German budget chain has lodged proposals to demolish the 1920s roadhouse, beside the Birmingham New Road in Dudley, to make way for the store.

Supermarket bosses say the new 1,000 sq ft store will create 40 jobs and have a 94-space car park.

But the scheme has divided opinion across the borough, with letters in favour and a petition again the plan, which goes before councillors on Monday.

INSIDE

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Drug addict is jailed for mean theft

Despicable — Richard Mills

A DRUG addict who was given a day's work helping to lay carpets at the home of a 69-year-old woman stole her jewellery, worth £4,000.

The victim had given serial offender Richard Mills breakfast and cups of tea while he worked at the house. He repaid her kindness by stealing an engagement ring and eternity ring, both 'priceless' to her because of sentimental value.

Mills also took a watch and two silver chains which he sold to buy drugs, revealed Miss Sharonjit Bahia, prosecuting, at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

The defendant was an odd job man brought in to help at the Coseley home of the victim on February 6. Miss Bahia explained: "The woman fed him breakfast and provided numerous cups of tea and biscuits. The defendant was then asked to clear up some rooms upstairs."

An hour after the carpet fitters left the occupant went upstairs and saw a gold ring on the bathroom floor. Fears were confirmed when she realised jewellery was missing from her bedroom.

Mills, who had 31 previous convictions, had walked out wearing her husband's hat and carrying a pork pie taken from the fridge. This had happened just two days after he appeared before magistrates on an another matter. He was arrested for the jewellery theft on March 5 after being detained at a supermarket for shoplifting bottles of gin.

The victim did not ask for compensation because she assumed he would just steal to raise the money. Mr Jon Roe, defending, said Mills 'bitterly regrets giving in to temptation.'

Mills, of Florence Avenue, Lanesfield, pleaded guilty to theft and was jailed for two years and three months by Judge Martin Walsh, who told him: "This was a mean and despicable offence."

Cowboy builders conned disabled widow aged 86

THREE young cowboy builders charged a disabled 86-year-old widow £500 for roof repairs that were not needed, a judge heard.

She was deliberately targeted by the unqualified men who made a cold call at her Dudley home on January 16, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The vulnerable victim, who uses a walking frame and lives alone, was told that they were working in the area and had noticed the ridge tiles on her house were loose. It later emerged that a neighbour had seen one of the men climbing up a ladder to pull the tiles free, said Mr Mark Jackson, prosecuting.

Charlie Lee, aged 20, 19-year-old Nathan Smith and their 17-year-old accomplice quoted £500, which was quickly reduced by £50 when the initial offer was turned down. The victim grudgingly agreed to the work because she felt intimidated by the men and wanted to get rid of them.

They refused a cheque and, as she only had £190 in cash, had to go to the post office to withdraw the balance. She was driven by a friend but her hands shook so much she could not enter the pin number. When she returned home to tell the trio they took the £190, wrote a receipt and said they would come back for the rest of the money the following day.

Pressurised

Mr Jackson said: "The work did not need doing. She felt pressurised and anxious and only agreed to get rid of them. They did not make overt threats. Their presence was sufficient."

Trading Standard officers were waiting with police when Lee from Justin Park, Market Harborough, Smith of Coventry and the teenager, who cannot be named for legal reasons, returned.

All three pleaded guilty to aggressive working practice. Lee was given four months' detention in a Young Offenders Institution, the teenager received the same period on a detention and trading order and Smith, the only one without previous convictions, was handed a four-month detention order suspended for 18 months with 70 hours of unpaid work, £750 costs and £63 compensation.

The van they were using was ordered to be seized.

Couple celebrate 60 years together

Diamond wedding anniversary couple Raymond and Margery Edwards look at a photograph of their wedding day

A DIAMOND wedding couple are raising a glass to 60 years of happy marriage after they first met at a famous Black Country pub.

Ray and Margery Edwards, aged 81 and 83, have marked the marriage milestone this month with their family.

Mrs Edwards' parents Samuel and Ellen Green were licensees at The Crooked House pub, near Himley, for more than 20 years. Their daughter used to work occasional shifts behind the bar.

"I used to get a free pint so that was nice," said Mr Edwards. "We started writing to each other and love blossomed from there."

Mr Edwards was enlisted for national service in 1952 serving in the 59th Regiment, the Royal Artillery, in Carlisle, working on radar.

The couple kept in touch as pen pals before Mr Edwards was demobbed in April 1954. They courted for just over a year before tying the knot at St Michael's Church, in Himley, on June 11, 1955. After holding the wedding reception at The Crooked House they had a short honeymoon in Pontypridd, South Wales.

The couple lived in Amblecote and Wordsley before Kingswinford for the past 47 years.

Mr Edwards worked in maintenance at Wordsley Hospital for 32 years and his wife worked at Hickmans ammunition factory, Kingswinford. The couple have three children, two grandchildren and one great grandson.

Sign up call for council's automatic alert service

COUNCIL tenants in Dudley can sign up to a service that sends them alerts about meetings and services.

Once registered for the free service, Dudley Council will automatically send information about upcoming tenant and resident association meetings, events and housing services.

Residents can sign-up e at www.dudley.gov.uk/housingalerts or by calling (01384) 815168.

Housing chief Councillor Gaye Partridge said: "As a community council we pride ourselves on engaging with local residents and we want to ensure all of the tenants and residents living on our estates become actively involved in the running of our borough.

"Dudley Council has many tenants and residents associations operating in the area and they make an invaluable contribution as they ensure everyone has a say in the development of their estate, as well as providing an opportunity to meet other people.

"These communications methods provide customers with another way to keep in touch, particularly as many people now have mobile phones and email. We want to embrace these convenient communication channels to involve residents wherever possible."

There are currently 27 tenant and resident associations in the borough whose members are actively helping to run their estates. The groups discuss many issues relating to their areas and develop ideas of how they can help to make improvements.

Movie star's love letters at auction

LOVE letters written by Hollywood hero Errol Flynn during his days as a struggling repertory actor are about to go under the hammer.

The five letters from the future playboy screen legend were intended to woo one Marjorie Bickham, a girl he met while performing at the Malvern Festival in 1934.

Flynn was a member of the Birmingham Rep at the time, having yet to make his mark in Hollywood in films such as The Adventures of Robin Hood.

The letters, kept by Marjorie's great niece, are expected to sell for around £600 at Fieldings Auctioneers, Stourbridge, on July 4.

Fieldings' director Nick Davies said: "The letters are very flowery and very much in the style of the period."

Crew stop garage fire from spreading

FIREFIGHTERS tackled a blaze in a garage roof in Pedmore.

The speedy response of firefighters from Haden Cross Station prevented the small fire at The Parklands spreading to the house. The alarm was raised at 4.45pm on Monday.

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More homes created by council due to demand

DOZENS of empty council houses across Dudley will be revamped and brought back into use during the next 12 months.

Dudley Council says it wants to refurbish 90 properties to help meet the demand for homes from families in the borough.

It comes as bosses prepare to start work on a £1.3 million project to covert the former Arcal Lodge care home in Sedgley into new council homes.

Work will start next month to convert the building into six apartments, along with eight bungalows.

The project is expected to be completed in March 2016.

Construction has also started to build homes on the sites of former council depots at The Walk in Sedgley and at Norfolk Road in Wollaston.

It is the next stage of a wider £40m scheme to build 300 properties over the next five years.

As well as building new homes, housing boss Councillor Gaye Partridge said the authority was committed restored properties which were lying empty after falling into a state of disrepair for various reasons.

"We have again set a target of bringing 90 empty homes back into use over the next year," she said.

"Last year we exceeded this and will hope to achieve a similar figure this year as we look to make the most of the borough's housing stock and minimise situations where properties are empty and can become an eyesore and a problem for local communities."

Housing stock is at a 25-year low

THE boss of a Black Country chain of estate agents says that stock levels of homes on the market are the lowest he has known in a quarter of a century in the industry.

Paul Dubberley & Co managing partner Lee Morton said the firm had had a lot of recent sales success and the market in the wake of the General Election was 'a lot more upbeat'.

"There were so many people chasing these particular houses it was incredible. If you get the right stock in then it will go."

Mr Morton said that it was the supply of homes that was now the problem. "In 25 years in the industry I have never known a market with stock levels as low as they are at the moment," he added.

Pupils perform at teddy bear picnic

FAMILIES are invited to attend a teddy bears' picnic and enjoy a show by Thorns Primary School pupils in the bandstand. The event at Stevens Park, Quarry Bank, is being held on Saturday from 1pm.

Hospital parking fee increases under fire

Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley

PARKING charges have risen at Russells Hall Hospital, increasing by as much as 50 per cent.

But hospital bosses have defended the move, saying running and maintenance costs mean a rise was needed after a two-year freeze on tariffs.

People parking for up to 30 minutes have to pay £1.50 rather than £1. An hour-long stay costs £2.60, up from £2. An hour-and-a-half's parking has risen by 60p to £3.60. A stay of up to three hours has increased from £4 to £4.60, while a long stay up to 24 hours has risen by 10p to £5.60.

Dudley councillor Bill Etheridge, who has campaigned on the issue, called the move 'shameful' and fears the move could lead to congestion on surrounding roads.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin said he is writing to the Health Secretary about the fee hike. He said: "Lots of people in Dudley say how frustrating it is to have to spend so much on parking when going to the hospital for an appointment or to visit loved ones. These fees often hit vulnerable people when they may already be facing a fall in their income."

Paula Clark, chief executive of the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, said: "Patient and visitor car park charges had remained unchanged for two years. Pressures such as running costs and keeping the car parks safe and secure has forced us to increase the charges.

"We do not take decisions to increase charges to patients lightly and we have checked the market rate to see how we compare to local trusts, some of which charge for the first 15 minutes and most charge more for all day parking."

College bosses in pledge to make improvements

A COLLEGE serving thousands of students across the Black Country and Birmingham says it will boost standards after Ofsted inspectors urged it to make improvements.

Birmingham Metropolitan College, which has campuses in Stourbridge, Brierley Hill, Kidderminster, Great Barr and Birmingham, has been ordered to improve by Ofsted.

Inspectors said too few students achieved qualifications, especially English and maths. They also claimed attendance to some lessons was poor.

Inspectors, led by Rieks Drijver, said the proportion of apprentices who successfully completed their qualifications had declined.

The college has slipped from a good rating in 2011 and was rated as 'requiring improvement' following a visit in May.

Ofsted said too few learners on study programmes complete work experience to improve their understanding of how skills they learn are applied in the workplace.

But the report did highlight a series of strengths – saying teaching, learning and assessment are outstanding in manufacturing technology apprenticeships. They also praised college-based programmes in sport and visual arts.

Ofsted said the college worked well with Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP), councils and employers to adapt the curriculum to support regional priorities.

Accelerating

College principal Andrew Cleaves said they were committed to 'accelerating' the rate of improvements.

"The Ofsted findings are absolutely in line with our own assessment of where we are and supports our plans to continue to improve outcomes for our students," he said.

"We are absolutely committed to accelerating the rate of improvement and it was gratifying that, as part of the inspection process, so many of our key employer partners and local stakeholders spoke enthusiastically about the way we were delivering an excellent training service, to meet local and regional employer skills needs.

"Staff and students have much to be proud of at BMet and I'm encouraged that this report highlights our efforts over the past year or so to make significant improvements. We acknowledge that there is still more to do."

Bostin' boost for town carnival

David Craddock, of the Duke William, with Black Country Day organiser Steve Edwards and 'Black Country Mon'

STOURBRIDGE Carnival will be given a Black Country boost again this year following the bostin' success of last year's event.

The Black Country Festival celebrations will join in the carnival atmosphere at the event on July 5.

Coventry Street and Duke Street will be decked out in Black Country colours and feature street entertainers, live music and stalls celebrating the region.

Thousands of people are expected to descend on the town for the carnival, which will run from 10am to 6pm. It will feature a parade through the town with the theme 'Stourbridge Through the Ages'.

Dudley Council leader Councillor Pete Lowe said: "The turnout at last year's Stourbridge Carnival was more than anyone can remember so I'm delighted the Black Country festival will again play a part to help ensure it goes off in style again. I'm sure there will be activities across the town for the whole family to enjoy on the day."

The town's High Street will be decked with market stalls while a children's fun fair will take centre stage in Market Street and Talbot Street. In the Lower High Street there will be a display of classic cars and a vintage fair which the main stage area will be near to the town clock.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Theatre group in comedy sketches

AUDIENCES can enjoy a comedy revue of hilarious sketches when a theatre company presents its latest show in Stourbridge.

A Comedy Theatre Group is staging its own show this Friday and Saturday at Glebe Lane Methodist Church Hall, in Norton. Doors open at 7pm with curtain up at 7.30pm for the show which is not suitable for younger children.

Tickets are £3 each. Call Phill on 07954 692593 or email acomedytheatregroup@hotmail.co.uk for further details.

Hopes for Led Zep reunion dashed

HOPES of a Led Zeppelin reunion have been dashed after guitarist Jimmy Page said he had moved on from the idea, after trying to persuade singer Robert Plant and bass player John Paul Jones to reform the group.

Black Country rock star Plant has refused to get involved since the comeback concert at London's O2 Arena in 2007. Now Page insists he no longer yearns to perform with them, which he said during a press conference at Olympic Studios in London to mark the deluxe reissuing of the band's final three LPs.

No-waiting zone bid outside school

MOTORISTS will be prevented from waiting outside a primary school under council plans after concerns were raised by parents.

Dudley Council wants to bring in a no-waiting zone in New Street, Wall Heath, outside the entrance to Church of Ascension Primary School.

Drivers would also be barred from waiting on part of Dudley Road between 8am and 9.30am and 2.30pm and 4pm, Monday to Friday, if the proposal is approved.

Back to the 1970s at rugby club fundraiser

THE sounds of the 1970s will welcome guests to a fundraiser for Stourbridge Rugby Club tomorrow night.

The rugby club is hosting the event at its Stourton Park ground, off Bridgnorth Road, on Friday and doors open at 7.30pm.

Non-members are welcome to dress up in 70s fashions for the event and the bar will be open until midnight.

Tickets £10 include a chicken in a basket meal. Call Lin Taylor at the club office on (01384) 395000.

Apartments planned

FOURTEEN apartments could be built on vacant land in Quarry Bank under new plans.

The scheme has been earmarked for a site on the corner of Thorns Road and Caledonia. Officers at Dudley Council recommended the proposals are approved at a meeting on Monday.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

ERIC Gill (1882-1940) was a fabulously gifted artist. He was also a raging pervert and paedophile who had sex with his sister, daughters and his own dog. In her fine series How to Be Bohemian (BBC4), Victoria Coren Mitchell could barely conceal her disgust. And yet Gill's sculpture of Prospero with a naked Ariel still stands boldly on the front of the BBC's Broadcasting House. It is a dilemma. Do you bin an artist's entire life work if he is exposed as a sexual rampager? And how can Auntie Beeb keep Eric Gill's sculpture but ban Rolf Harris's Two Little Boys?

MEANWHILE, Rolf Harris is condemned for a song he has written in jail denouncing his victims and trying to excuse his sins. This is brandished as proof that he shows no remorse. Well, maybe he doesn't. But there is another possibility. At 85, Rolf Harris may simply be losing his marbles.

A LITTLE girl in our local park brushed against a nettle and howled with pain. Her mother said it was only a tiny sting. The toddler still howled. All around, between the nettles, were hundreds of dock leaves. Do parents no longer teach their kids that the cure for a nettle sting is to spit on a dock leaf and slap it on the wound?

A SURVEY suggests teenagers are not taking Saturday jobs because they are "solely focused on their studies." Nothing to do with being idle little devils and lying in bed till 3pm, then?

SIR Ian McKellen hits the big screen with the release of the Sherlock movie Mr Holmes. I wish him well. I've interviewed him twice and each time was a delight. He was sparky, spontaneous, informative, totally un-luvvie and delightfully indiscreet. If only all celebs were such a pleasure.

THE right thing to say on first beholding the beautiful, charming, ever-compliant robot Anita in Humans (C4) is: "This looks like a fascinating study of human and robotic relationships in the near future." The wrong thing to say on first beholding the beautiful, charming, ever-compliant robot Anita is: "I want one."

YET, given that online porn has already destroyed thousands of relationships, who can guess what havoc humanoid robots might wreak in the not-too-distant future? Imagine, ladies, the joys of a slim-hipped permanent 25-year-old house-warrior who worships you, never picks his nose, does the washing and lawn-mowing joyfully and is genuinely fascinated by what Molly in HR said to Fran in Accounts that morning. Imagine, gentlemen. . . . On second thoughts, there is no need to entice men to imagine what sort of robots they'd like. They need no encouragement.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Hi-de-Hi! star wishes play good luck

A STAR of classic holiday camp sit-com Hi-de-Hi! has wished an amateur group luck as they adapt the popular show for the stage.

Oldbury Rep continues its 76th season by staging their version of the 1980s TV show by Jimmy Perry and David Croft, adapted by Paul Carpenter and Ian Gower.

In the play, it is the start of a new season at the holiday camp and founder Joe Maplin announces that he is setting up a camp in the Bahamas. He needs female Yellowcoats to work there and the annual 'Miss Yellowcoat' competition will decide who is to go.

Rivalry between the girls is fierce, with Sylvia and Gladys front runners to win the coveted yellow sash and chalet cleaner Peggy is thrilled at the prospect of a Yellowcoat vacancy. Meanwhile, comedian Ted is forced into numerous money-making schemes when his ex-wife turns up.

Walsall-born actor Jeffrey Holland, who played Spike in the original series, sent a good luck message to Oldbury Rep, saying: "The very best of Maplin's luck for the run of your show. I hope you have as much fun doing it as we did doing the original one. It's good to know that it is as popular today as it was 30 years ago!"

The production runs from July 4 to 11 with tickets priced at £10 (concessions £9) with cut-price £8 performances on the Monday and Tuesday. Book online at www.oldburyrep.org or call 0121 552 2761.

Jeffrey Holland

Sea of gold and black as Joe is laid to rest

HUNDREDS of Wolves fans turned out wearing gold and black to say a tearful goodbye to avid young supporter Joseph Thompson.

Family members, friends and people who did not even know him attended the 13-year-old's funeral at Gornal Wood Crematorium, joined by Wolves boss Kenny Jackett and chief executive Jez Moxey.

Joseph, who was voted Fan of the Year in 2014, warmed the hearts of players, coaches and officials at Molineux as he followed his beloved club the length and breadth of the country in all weathers with dad Jason.

When he was three years old he was diagnosed with Duchenne Muscular Distrophy, a muscle-wasting condition that left him wheelchair-bound. He died last month after suffering a heart attack.

The youngster, whose condition limited his movement and meant he couldn't use his legs, became a recognisable face to the Wolves players and coaching staff. He would often be there waiting as the team coach arrived at away games.

Jackett, who was joined at the service by his wife Samantha, said: "He was a regular visitor to the training ground with his family.

Tribute

"He was at every away game and would often be there before the bus. He was a smashing young man."

Moxey also paid tribute, saying: "Joe was a really dedicated supporter who loved the club so much. It is a moving tribute to see so many fans decked out in Wolves colours."

Joseph, who lived in Pensnett, got the Wolves bug after he became hooked on football during the 2010 World Cup.

He didn't miss a single game in four years before being taken ill in March following a minibus crash that left him in intensive care at Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Even then he only missed six games and was welcomed back to Molineux by the club as the family were given the VIP treatment with their own executive box and they saw a 3-0 win over Sheffield Wednesday.

Sadly it would be one of the last times he would visit his spiritual home. Famous songs associated with the club filled the air at last Wednesday's service, including The Liquidator and Hi Ho Silver Lining. It began at 2.50pm, the time that Joseph and his father would normally arrive at Molineux on Saturdays.

Doves were released into the sky following the service. Parents Jason and Jackie, of Rookery Park, said they were blown away by the masses of gold and black shirted supporters that came to pay their respects. Jason, an upholstery supervisor in Telford, said: "He mentioned one day that at his funeral he wanted Wolves colours and he wanted everybody to be happy.

"He was a happy chappy who lived his life to the full but obviously the number one thing in his life was Wolves. Home and away, that was his life."

Jackie, a supervisor at Russells Hall Hospital, also 42, said: "He was remarkable - funny, energetic and Wolves was his life. It has been absolutely overwhelming. Wolverhampton Wanderers have been fantastic."

Joseph, who went to school in Bromsgrove, was handed a standing ovation from more than 600 people at the club's end of season awards dinner when he was voted fan of the Year.

His father had taken him to his first Wolves game, a pre-season friendly against Athletic Bilbao, and then to every game that followed.

Wolves fan Joe Thompson

Joe's family, including sister and parents, at the funeral service

Steve Thomas, advertising manager, Jez Moxey and Kenny Jackett represened Wolves

Tea party and awards for charity volunteers

A CHARITY based in Sedgley has praised more than 230 loyal volunteers for their support for people living with sight loss across the West Midlands.

Beacon's annual Volunteer of the Year Awards at its Wolverhampton Road East headquarters saw the contribution of helpers recognised with a special tea party in their honour.

Prizes were presented to two groups, with the Bloxwich shop team picking up the Beacon Retail Award, while the Long Knowle Club Volunteers received the Beacon Volunteer of the Year Award.

Arwyn Jones, chief executive of Beacon, said: "The annual awards ceremony allows Beacon to demonstrate gratitude and appreciation to every single one of our dedicated and loyal volunteers. The thank you tea party is a lovely occasion, bringing together hundreds of the charity's supporters.

"We currently have 235 people who generously and tirelessly aid the charity through community fundraising, and helping out in our shops or the Sedgley centre. Without them, Beacon would struggle to deliver its vital services to people."

The Retail Volunteer of the Year award went to Bloxwich shop volunteers Paul Willey, Brenda Birkett and Sue Boxold; while Long Knowle Club Volunteers Maureen Taylor, Beryl Meyrick, Gillian Gogle, Jane Bood, Brenda Osborne, Mavis Davis and Ninder Kaur from Wednesfield picked up the Beacon Volunteer of the Year award.

Speedway rider Proctor deported

FORMER Wolverhampton speedway rider Ty Proctor has been deported.

The Australian, who moved from Wolves to Sheffield Tigers, had his application to review his visa refused due to not meeting renewal criteria based on his performance in the sport.

A Wolverhampton Wolves Speedway statement read: "Since he first arrived in the UK he has held the necessary visa as a professional speedway rider, immediately registering with HM Revenue and Customs and his behaviour has been exemplary.

"During the subsequent years as he joined Wolverhampton his visa has been renewed without question and each time he easily met the necessary renewal criteria and he has spent enough time in the UK to qualify for a residence permit."

Celebrity chef Gino stars live on stage

CELEBRITY chef Gino D'Acampo brings his new stage show to Wolverhampton Civic Hall on November 3.

Tickets for Gino's Italian Escape Live are priced £26.95. Call 0870 320 7000 or book online at www.wolvescivic.co.uk

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Rise in the number of dangerous dogs seized

THE number of dangerous dogs seized by police is on the increase as hundreds of attacks are reported every year, new figures show.

West Midlands Police seized more than 400 dogs in 2013/2014, while more than 1,000 attacks were reported in the region between 2012 and 2014.

More than 200 dogs were seized by West Mercia Police in three years, resulting in more than 100 being destroyed.

Meanwhile, in Staffordshire, 18 dangerous dogs were destroyed between 2013 and 2015 after dozens were seized under the Dangerous Dogs Act.

Figures uncovered by a Freedom of Information request found 428 dogs were seized in the West Midlands force area in 2013/14 and 190 were destroyed.

Previous

The numbers were up on the previous year, when 353 were seized and 184 were destroyed, and in 2011/12 when 287 dogs were seized with 122 destroyed.

It came after 332 dog attacks were reported in 2014, 329 in 2013 and 367 in 2012.

In West Mercia's force area, 38 dogs were seized in 2012, 35 in 2013 and 145 in 2014 – although the force claimed a change in recording from 2014 led to an increase in the numbers. Figures show that of these, 70 were destroyed in 2014 and 18 were destroyed in both 2012 and 2013.

Foreign money created 457 jobs

FOREIGN investment helped create more than 450 jobs in the Black Country in 2014/15, latest UK Trade and Investment figures show.

The 457 roles was a 310 per cent improvement on the previous year, when 146 were created in the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) area. The figures also show more foreign businesses invested in Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP than any other LEP region.

Investors include Jaguar Land Rover, KPMG, Virgin Media and Amazon.

Wayne Langford, head of Invest Black Country, said: "We have also seen a considerable increase in awareness of the Black Country among overseas businesses and agencies."

Pupils in appeal for raffle prizes

PUPILS are appealing for items to raffle to raise funds at Peters Hill Primary School, Amblecote. Businesses that can help are invited to contact teaching assistant Teresa McDonald on (01384) 816740.

Shopping ban on mother and son thieves

A MOTHER and son crime team from Dudley have become the UK's first relatives to be banned from shopping together after stealing from stores around the Black Country.

Janet Rollinson and son Stuart Round stuffed food and booze inside their clothes while shielding each other from view. But now the pair have been jailed and handed pioneering orders banning them from entering shops together.

It is believed to be the first time such a ban has been placed on family members in the UK.

The pair struck at Tesco Express in Kent Street, Upper Gornal, on April 14 before making off with £1,000 of clothes from Next in Wednesbury two days later, having sneaked behind a counter to de-tag items. Round walked out of Wordsley's Sainsburys Local on May 25 with eight steaks stuffed down his trousers, with Rollinson hiding chocolate in the same way.

Round grabbed bottles of spirits from Asda Netherton on May 27 and Rollinson was seen on Asda CCTV on the same day taking security tags from four bottles of Jack Daniels before walking off without paying.

Jailed

Rollinson, aged 51, of Forge Road, Stourbridge, was jailed for 28 weeks and Round, 26, of Wavell Street, Quarry Bank, for 36 weeks. Rollinson admitted three charges of theft and Round admitted five.

Detective Constable Matt Nightingale said: "These two have been a thorn in the side of retailers in Dudley for many years and have stolen thousands of pounds worth of stock, so we've taken a novel approach to curb their offending.

"The Criminal Behaviour Orders ban them from entering any shop together for the next five years and should they be found breaching the conditions they will be hauled before the courts and can expect to spend more time behind bars."

As well as being banned from entering stores together, Rollinson and Round are also prohibited from going into various shops individually in Dudley borough — a move welcomed by traders.

£300m vision for M5 site creating 6,000 jobs

AN ENTERPRISE zone could be created next to the M5 near Halesowen in a bid to attract £300 million of investment and generate around 6,000 jobs.

Dudley Council has announced it is working on proposals to transform land close to Junction 3 of the motorway.

Dudley Council's economic development boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said the borough suffered from a shortage of employment sites close to motorway junctions but had identified the M5 site as having the potential to attract firms.

The authority is looking to set up 'an enterprise zone-style investment site' on the land which borders Manor Way to the north and the motorway to the east.

Full proposals will be drawn up before a public consultation.

"One of the key issues which has hindered large scale inward investment in Dudley has been our lack of significant readily available employment sites near to motorway junctions," Councillor Ahmed said.

"We have now identified an area that has the potential to attract up to £300m of investment and to create over 6,000 new jobs, which would be a major economic boost to Dudley borough and allow us to play a key role in the regional growth agenda for the West Midlands over the next 10 years.

Links

"The land is on the motorway junction which would provide excellent transport links and create much-needed jobs but we will of course put the whole proposal out to full public consultation."

Members of the council's cabinet will be asked to authorise a study to explore the potential of the site. If approved, it will then form part of the review of the 'joint core strategy for the Black Country', which will start next year.

The planning document will provide guidelines for the future development of the region and as well as employment will look at retail, office, leisure, transport and environmental improvements for the coming years.

It follows the creation of the Dudley Business Investment Zone launched at the Waterfront in Brierley Hill in a bid to fill up empty office space and bring 1,600 jobs to the region by offering a two-year business rates holiday.

Slimmers lose their spare tyres

Oldswinford Slimming World members Lynn Lacey, Sandra Jones and Jude Clarke at Griffiths Tyre Services

AROUND 130 members of the Oldswinford Slimming Word group in Stourbridge have lost a staggering 61 stone – equivalent to 43 car tyres.

The members took on the Slimmer Summer Challenge over the space of six weeks, set by group consultant Kerry Morgan. So it was an end to ready meals, snacking on chocolate bars and trips to the takeaway. Instead, in came fruit, vegetables and exercise.

Sandra Jones, a 50-year-old mother of two from Pedmore, weighed around 16st and was up to a size 24. Now Mrs Jones, who works as a home help, says her healthier lifestyle has seen her lose 4st 9lbs over the past two years and she is now a size 14.

Jude Clarke, 37, from Brierley Hill, was once 13st and a size 18, two years after joining the group she is down to 10st and a size 10. The officer worker said: "It has given me so much more confidence"

Lynn Lacey joined when she weighed around 21st and is now 13-and-a-half stone, inspiring husband David, 62, to lose weight too

The group is raising funds for the Georgina Unit at Russells Hall Hospital through sponsored walks, runs and bike rides. The group meet on Wednesdays at St Mary's Church, Oldswinford, from 4pm.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lenny loses weight after health scare

LENNY Henry has told how he shed three and a half stone after being warned by doctors he could develop type one diabetes.

The Dudley-born comedian, 56, said his mother was killed by the illness.

He told the Daly Mail's Weekend magazine: "My mum lost two legs through diabetes and eventually died from it, so I knew I had to lose weight. The doctor warned me I was heading the same way.

"Dieting is tedious but I feel better for it. It's hard, but like anything, if you put your mind to it, you can do it."

QE's new method to combat cancer

A BIRMINGHAM hospital is one of the first in the country to use a new cancer treatment.

Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital will carry out stereotactic ablative radiotherapy (SABR). NHS England has invested a total of £15 million to allow up to 750 new patients a year to access the treatment at 17 centres across the country.

SABR is a modern and more precise delivery technique of radiotherapy which delivers high doses of radiation while causing less damage to the surrounding healthy tissue.

Awareness drive on blood disorder

THE Haemophilia Society has warned that hundreds of women in the Black Country may be unaware that they have a genetic bleeding disorder.

In women symptoms for a condition that affects the way blood clots include heavy periods, bruising easily and frequent or heavy nosebleeds.

The Haemophilia Society has launched an awareness campaign 'Talking Red' to alert people to the symptoms. Visit talkingred.org for more information.

South Staffs cycling initiative is praised

A SCHEME to get more people involved in cycling has been hailed a success by Gavin Williamson, MP for South Staffordshire.

The Kinver MP learned about the South Staffs Cycling Scheme while at the Brewood Cycle Challenge. Mr Williamson said: "This is a brilliant scheme. We are so lucky to be surrounded by such wonderful countryside in South Staffordshire and it is right that we take advantage of it through this cycle scheme."

Museum is popular

BEWDLEY Museum has been awarded a Certificate of Excellence for the second year running by travel website Trip Advisor. The museum in the riverside town's main thoroughfare Load Street has been described as a 'hidden gem', 'fabulous and free' and a 'little treasure in a beautiful town'.

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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

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We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Gove goes on warpath to cut out pomposity

JUSTICE Secretary Michael Gove has come in for a bit of stick over reports that he has banned civil servants from starting sentences with 'however' and using contractions such as 'doesn't' or 'can't'.

However – sorry, that one just slipped in – when it comes to some of the other terminology Mr Gove is trying to ban, then I'm right behind him. He wants mandarins to stop using 'impact' as a verb. He says they should avoid anything with a ring of pomposity.

It is high time somebody cracked down on the hateful, tortured language which still seems to be rife in the public sector.

'Signage' instead of signs, 'new builds' instead of new buildings. Lighting columns where there used to be street lamps, representations instead of objections. Public servants are there to serve the public, and that means speaking in the same language as the public. Not attempting to win Scrabble prizes.

And why do animal charities talk about 're-homing' strays? You don't re-home anything, you re-house it. Home is a noun, unless you are talking about pigeon racing.

Then, we have the dreadful expression 'on the go', which seems to be a favourite of anybody desperate to be perceived as dynamic and modern. According to a very annoying TV commercial doing the rounds at the moment, eating a cereal bar on your way to work constitutes 'breakfast on the go'.

Well, I'm sorry, but it doesn't. It might make you want to go, quite often I'm sure, but that is very different.

❒❒❒❒

I called into a well-known retailer in Walsall, arriving about 50 minutes before closing time. Shortly after, there was an announcement saying the ladies' changing rooms were soon to close. A few minutes later, it was repeated.

A little bit later, the public address system informed customers that the shop would be closing in 20 minutes, again repeated a short while later. The same happened again 15 minutes before closing.

Five minutes later, two separate members of staff asked me if I would mind making my way to the counter, as the store would be closing in 10 minutes.

What is it with these people? Look, I know these pesky customers are a pain, coming in the shop, mooching around and buying things. I know you would like to knock off early, without people queuing at the checkout, but it's what shops are for. How many times have we seen shop assistants locking the doors 10 minutes before closing time?

If a shop advertises itself as being open until 5.30pm, anybody who turns up at 5.29 should be allowed in without question. Needless to say, I made sure I made a point of hanging around until bang-on closing time.

Smethwick Toll House in High Street and its coach house

Langley Maltings in Oldbury, dating 1870, steeped in history

Heron Court in Rugeley, with its Tudor Gothic architecture

Taking stock of our crumbling heritage

People may be surprised to find many landmark buildings are on the at risk register. **ADAM BURLING** reports

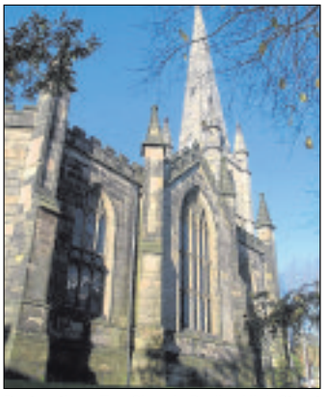
THEY have become familiar parts of the landscape to thousands of people who pass them every day.

But many may not realise that these historic buildings are among the country's most at risk sites.

Heritage campaigners have drawn up a list of buildings that they believe could end up knocked down or falling into disrepair if action is not taken.

And while some are instantly recognisable, others are less obvious. But they all form part of the Black Country and Staffordshire's rich heritage. The SAVE group, which is marking its 40th anniversary this year, is about to release its latest catalogue of at risk buildings. And English Heritage recently compiled a list of sites that are vulnerable to making way for developments.

Wolverhampton's Church of St Leonard has leaking gutters causing damage to stonework



Restoration – Top Church, Dudley High Street

Turnpike

Smethwick Toll House has been a fixture on the High Street since 1820 but it unlikely that the majority of shoppers or commuters pay it much attention each day. But it is among five sites in the West Midlands chosen by SAVE in its latest investigations.

The toll house and associated coach house is Grade II-listed and served the Birmingham, Dudley and Wolverhampton turnpike which was formed in 1760. The toll house and former coach house were most recently let as an art gallery, but have now been vacant for a number of years.

Meanwhile, Langley Maltings is steeped in the history of the Black Country's brewing industry. Originally dating from 1870, but substantially rebuilt in 1898, the Maltings are a well-known landmark in this part of Sandwell.

The site was built for the nearby Showell's Crosswell Brewery, with the 1898 buildings designed by Arthur Kinder & Son, notable brewery architects. Although the brewery changed hands several times, remarkably the maltings were still in use as late as 2006 and it was one of the last to use the traditional floor malting process.

An arson attack in 2009 caused considerable damage to the buildings, but English Heritage concluded that 'despite some unstable masonry, repairing the building would be relatively straightforward'.

An application for demolition was submitted by the owner in 2012, but the council rejected the plans after an outcry from residents. Businessmen Lehmber Singh and Harbhajan Singh Dhadday, who run D&S Enterprises, bought the property for £1 million in 2007.

Mr Dhadday said they were still hoping to submit a planning application to build housing. In Staffordshire, Heron Court has been singled out as an example of Tudor Gothic architecture. The building, in Heron Street, Rugeley, was constructed in 1851 at the time that Rugeley was expanding from a market town to a coal mining centre.

It was used as a convent and more recently as the home of a billiards club.

The site is now up for sale and, while it is in relatively good condition, there are fears it will be difficult to find a new use for it that will keep its historic features.

Meanwhile English Heritage has named two well-known Dudley churches on its list of landmarks under threat. St Thomas and St Luke's Church in High Street, Dudley, known as Top Church, is a shock new addition to this year's Heritage at Risk register. St John's Church in Dudley is now also on the list.

A total of 195 sites across the Black Country, Staffordshire and North Worcestershire have now been identified as being at risk in the latest survey. Five new buildings in the area, all of them churches, have been added.

However, nine buildings have been removed after finding a more secure future. St Thomas and St Luke's Church is considered to be Dudley's premier church and is used for civic functions. The Grade II listed building, built between 1815 and 1818, is said to be in 'poor' condition.

Ten years ago £528,000 was spent restoring its spire. Meanwhile, St John's Church in St John Street closed in 2002 for safety reasons after structural problems were discovered.

Worcester Diocese, which owns the building, initially said it may be declared redundant and demolished. However, the St John's Church Preservation Group was formed in 2007 to save the building, and it was granted Grade II-listed status in 2009.

William Perry, better known as The Tipton Slasher, who was England's bare-knuckle boxing champion from 1850 to 1857, and Marion Richardson, a well-known author of children's handwriting books, are among those buried in the churchyard. Other entries on the register include in Wolverhampton, St Luke's Church in Upper Villiers Street, said to be at severe risk as its condition is deteriorating rapidly, English Heritage says. It is described as in 'very bad' condition and as being 'of immediate risk of further rapid deterioration or loss of fabric'.

Built by GT Robinson of Leamington in 1860, the church's huge, decorated spire is a local landmark in the Blakenhall area. The problem of dry rot was addressed some years ago, but many other issues remain.

The city's Church of St Leonard, in Church Street, has leaking gutters that are damaging the stonework and causing water damage inside. It still has a number of original features from when it was built in 1825, but English Heritage says they could be lost if repairs are not carried out.

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Smart way to keep motorists to speed limit

IT is with great disappointment that I have noticed that drivers are continuing to speed through the 40mph limit on the A456 Hagley Road, between the Hayley Green roundabout and the Clent turn-off.

This stretch of road has had an extremely poor accident record and was voted the third most dangerous in the country.

The daughter of my old school friend was killed here some time ago. It was his only child, and the shock and heartbreak of this tragedy led to his early death in 2009, aged 48.

Although a pelican crossing has been introduced, any motorist who dares to keep to the speed limit, including myself, will find themselves being tailgated by aggressive, self-important drivers, sometimes complete with abuse.

I would suggest speed average cameras but they are both ugly and expensive. Why then, does the Government not insist on cars being fitted with 'Smart' limiters? The technology has existed for these for some time. They basically use a GPS (Global Positioning System) location to link in with Engine Management Units to limit speed to whatever the limit is on that particular stretch of road.

These are almost the holy grail of road safety, and a major manufacturer has already introduced this system as an 'optional extra' on one of its car models. They should not be just an option.

A BROOK
Halesowen

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
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Chronicle Editorial,
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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL
dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Bring back West Mids authority

MARK Andrews's column (June 11) may be heartfelt 'as a dyed-in-the-wool Black Country mon', but it's not enough to make a serious argument against the Combined Authority idea. Squabbling about Greater Birmingham ignores the serious problem of being left behind by London.

Although he dismisses the West Midlands County Council as "unlamented", there is a case for its revival. Until they were abolished by the Thatcher Government in 1986 they were elected and were big enough to have a strategic role. To return to shire counties, as Mark Andrews suggests, fails to recognise the shire-metropolitan distinction.

If London is to be challenged as the engine-room of the economy, we will need to focus on city-regions. The metropolitan county councils recognised this whilst providing democratic accountability.

JOHN PAYNE
Halesowen

Referendum would resolve mosque issue

I ATTENDED the Dudley Central Mosque exhibition and I have to disagree with your report. The exhibition did not show defiance by all the people present to the anti-mosque protest marches, in fact, there were many present who supported them. The people in the marches have the right to protest against the proposed mosque.

As a resident in Dudley I have sympathy for the market traders but the council and police could avoid much of the disruption if the marches were directed from the Hippodrome car park, up Castle Hill, left at Tower Street, past the Town Hall to demonstrate and return via Ednam Road.

The 30,000-plus who signed petitions showed their rejection of the mosque, the location being inappropriate with no relationship to Dudley's heritage or historical architecture. The structure would be an 'eyesore', too imposing, and adverse to the multiculturalism in Dudley. The council have a duty to comply with the Government's localism bill and within 'community empowerment' it states the Government is committed to give residents the power to instigate local referendums on any local issue – this would finally settle the mosque outcome.

A PAGE
Dudley

I yam what I yam, not Brummie

I am in full agreement with N D Caddick of Coseley about keeping our roots in the Black Country.

Myself and many others in the Black Country do not want to become part of Birmingham or its poor relation, as will happen if Birmingham has a say.

I was born and bred in Smethwick but have lived in Halesowen for 18 years, and have always considered myself Black Country not a Birminghamite. When on holidays sometimes people have said 'I can tell you are from Birmingham'. I get very angry and tell them I am Black Country NOT A BRUMMY — and very proud of it.

I would like to say to all MPs and councillors, leave the Black Country alone, we are very proud of our history. Anyone who has a yearning to belong to Birmingham can go and live there. We Ay Brummies! We yam Black Country folk

MRS J GARFIELD
Halesowen

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A Warners promotional film from 1965

West Midlands band Kansas Hook in a 1970 promotional film

Princess Margaret visits Telford in 1970

One of the salvaged archive pictures showing progress with a purpose in 1964

Archive footage saved thanks to Lottery grant

MEMORY LANE

By Jordan Harris

HOURS of archive film footage showing Wolverhampton life from the 50s to the 70s have been rescued from the brink of extinction thanks to a lottery funded preservation project.

The footage, shot by production company Warners, includes the Queen's visit to the town in May 1962 and a military parade by the South Staffordshire Regiment in the same year.

A 1961 Black Country travelogue, a promotional film for the West Midlands band Kansas Hook shot in 1970, and even News Travels Fast – a day in the life of the Express & Star, filmed in 1960 are also featured.

Wolverhampton City Archives in partnership with the Media Archive for Central England (Mace) has carried out the work to preserve the film records, which were at risk of becoming unusable due to vinegar syndrome, which causes film to decay.

More than 50 different recordings have now been digitised and reconstructed and archive volunteers have been researching the backgrounds of some of the people and companies featured in the collection.

For Sallie Birtwisle, who grew up in Penn, the project has brought back memories of the happiest day of her life. She was contacted by Mace and told that the video document of her wedding day had been restored.

Sallie, now 73 and living in Nantwich, Cheshire, had never seen the video of her happy day, which was held at Christ Church in Tettenhall Wood on July 31, 1965.

She said being able to see her late husband Richard and all of their friends and family again was 'the best thing to happen to me all year'.

She said: "It was absolutely wonderful to watch the day back.

"What is particularly great about this for me is that my grandchildren can see all of these people who they have only had access to before through still images. It would have been great for Richard to see it." The results of the project are now on display until August 5 at an exhibition called Rescuing Warners, held at Wolverhampton City Archives on Whitmore Hill.

Mace senior curator and member Phil Leach said: "A lot of these films haven't been seen for around 40 or 50 years. It has taken a lot of hard work to get the films to this stage and everyone has done a great job."

Founded by Matthew Richard Warner as a chemist, Warners, was based in Chapel Ash from at least 1901, and by 1915 also had a branch on Stafford Road. It branched out into photographic supplies in the 1920s, and by 1955 M R Warner & Son Ltd was advertising itself as a photographic, cine and visual aid specialist. It was the official photographer for the council in 1960.

In the 1960s it also operated a large department for commercial photography, producing promotional films for local industries, and still had a presence in Chapel Ash into the 1980s. The films were donated to Wolverhampton archives by representatives of Warners in 1992.

An old Wolverhampton film footage on BBC Tonight

Senior Mace curator Philip Leach with one of the old Warners films that has been rescued

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Chief Constable steps down after six years

'It's been a fantastic privilege' — West Midlands Police Chief Constable Chris Sims is retiring after 30 years service

THE top police officer in the West Midlands is to step down after six years in the post. Chief Constable Chris Sims will retire aged 56 early next year.

He has held the role since June 2009 and had previously been Assistant Chief Constable for West Midlands Police and Chief Constable at Staffordshire Police.

He said: "It's been a fantastic privilege to lead this force through six challenging years. I will use the remaining time I have to make sure the transition to the next Chief Constable is as smooth as possible and that we don't take any break on our journey to being the best force in the country."

The announcement comes as Mr Sims outlines a programme to overhaul how the force operates by 2020. He had raised concerns that the police could face more cuts on top of planned savings of £120 million over four years.

Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson will now begin the process of choosing a replacement. He said: "Chris Sims is an outstanding Chief Constable who has served the West Midlands with distinction."

New head of canals group is appointed

THE Canal & River Trust, has appointed a new waterway manager to look after Black Country and Birmingham canals.

The charity, which cares for the 2,000 miles of canals and rivers in England and Wales has given the job to Ian Lane after he spent eight months as acting waterway manager.

Canals chief – Ian Lane

Mr Lane has a wealth of experience caring for the region's historic waterways having worked as principal engineer for the last 11 years. He will be responsible for looking after the day-to-day operations of the canals from Leamington Spa to Great Haywood and Stourport to Fazeley.

"This includes working with boaters, waterside communities, and the many clubs and organisations to ensure the waterways continue to improve.

Ian, said: "I'm really lucky to have such a wonderful place to work and I'm relishing the challenge of raising the trust's profile and people's perceptions of canals and ensuring the waterways continue to be a great place to visit and live along."

Peter Mathews, chairman of the West Midlands Waterways Partnership, said: "Ian has done a brilliant job these last few months keeping the waterways running smoothly. The canals in Birmingham and the Black Country are some of the most popular in the country and, under Ian's guidance, with help and advice from the partnership, they will continue to be even better places to visit."

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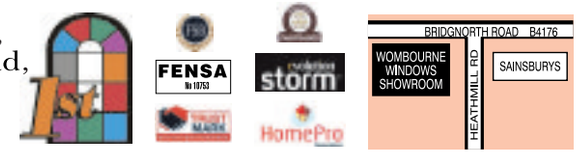

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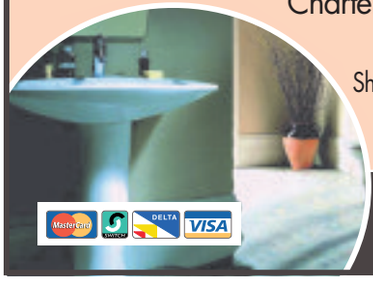

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Thornton in talk on Cadbury's

Kingswinford TG

THE June meeting began with chairman Enid Fennell congratulating members on the excellent display on the bring and buy stall. Members had certainly been very creative on the theme of strawberry and cream themed articles.

However, all that had to be put on hold until the formal necessary business was completed.

On a sad note, the recent death of former member Elsie Biggs was announced. Joan Graham was wished a speedy recovery as she was still in hospital.

On a much happier tone, Ann Rogers was presented with a lovely floral arrangement to mark a significant birthday. The quiz team were praised for coming second in the Federation quiz.

Sheila handed out the proposed venues for the luncheon club in the months before Christmas and then shocked everyone by announcing details of the December meeting/Christmas meal at The Lodge.

Kath Turner was thanked for the flowers which donated to the raffle as an extra prize.

Raffle winners were, Sandra Grey, Ena Baker and Barbara White.

Finally, having brought, the ladies then bought, raising a useful sum for guild funds.

The next monthly meeting will be on July 13 and the speaker will be Alan Thornton who will be talking about Cadbury's. It will be held in Kingswinford Community Centre and is open to non-members.

Giving the lowdown on 60s fashion icon

From left, Irene Smith, Ann Cooper, speaker Ruth Lowe and Sylvia Cope

Dudley South Ladies Luncheon Club

CHAIRMAN Mary Jones was delighted to welcome four visitors and 28 members to an excellent lunch at the Kingfisher Hotel, Wall Heath.

Guest Ruth Lowe arrived in a Mary Quant mini and wore her most famous black and white dress, peaked cap and white plastic boots for a talk on the 60s fashion icon

Members enjoyed the nostalgia of browsing through an exciting selection of Mary Quant dresses and accessories.

Ann Rogers reminded members about the visit to Moreton in the Marsh on July 7 and said a canal trip and cream tea had been arranged on August 18, departing from the Bonded Warehouse, Stourbridge.

The speaker on July 10 will be Ray Sturdy with a see and hear quiz and on August 14, instead of the usual luncheon, members are invited to a coffee morning at the home of Ann and Mike Rogers. This will include a raffle, bring and buy and refreshments.

Luncheons are held at the Kingfisher Hotel, on the second Friday each month, noon for 12.30 departing at 3pm. For further information ring the secretary on 01902 372984 or email maryjones30@sky.com

Max keen to give battle talk

Kingswinford & District Historical Society

THE society meets at the community centre, High Street, Kingswinford, on the first Monday of the month at 7.30pm.

At the June meeting Max Keen, suitably attired, told of the Battle of Agincourt.

In dramatic fashion he set the scene of the battle that took place on Friday October 25, 1415. Henry encountered the French army of 20,000 men, 6,000 French troops were killed while the English deaths amounted to just over 400.

Henry is regarded as having won one of the greatest victories of military history. Max showed his heavy armour and the weapons that would have been used.

On July 6, John Billingham will speak on 'Worcestershire Images'.

New members and visitors will be warmly welcomed. Further details from Ron Julian 01384 295848.

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Search is now on for the borough's top volunteers

DUDLEY Council for Voluntary Services (CVS) is on the hunt for nominations for its Volunteer of the Year awards recognising those who selflessly give their time to help others.

People are now been asked to put forward their favourite individual volunteers or group of volunteers who have made a difference through their unpaid work in the community.

Each year the Dudley CVS awards have a theme and this year's awards have been inspired by the smash hit 1991 film, The Commitments, about a group of young musicians. Taking this theme, the promotional posters for the awards show a group of local volunteers who have all made their own commitment to a cause they are passionate about.

Dudley Volunteer Centre development officer Eileen Fielding said: "The people featured on the posters are real volunteers in Dudley. They demonstrate the age spread of volunteering in Dudley, from the very young to, let's say, the more mature.

Dudley CVS Awards are presented in a number of categories – community action, children and families, healthy communities, wellbeing, sporting champion, arts and heritage and businesses supporting local not-for-profit groups. There are also awards for young volunteer of the year under the age of 25 and long service to volunteering.

Nominees must be unpaid and volunteer in the Dudley borough. The closing date for nominations is August 21 and the ceremony will be on October 15. Forms can be picked up from borough libraries and Dudley Council Plus or downloaded from www.dudleycvs.org.uk. Or call Dudley CVS on (01384) 573381.

Eileen Fielding, volunteering centre development officer, and Dale Pickin publicise Dudley CVS awards

Libraries looking for more Friends

DUDLEY libraries are appealing for residents to help shape the future of the borough's library service.

The Friends of Kingswinford and Wordsley Libraries have organised meetings to for potential new members.

Councillor Rachel Harris, cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said: "We recognise the huge contribution that Friends groups can make to improving and developing library services. Working together can help ensure that the library service is relevant to local people."

The Friends of Kingswinford and Wordsley Libraries are inviting library users to a coffee morning on Thursday, July 16, from 10.30am to 12.30pm where they can find out more. The event takes place at Wordsley Library, Wordsley Green, and also features a ukulele performance by the Kingswinford and District Strummers.

The library service is keen to establish Friends groups at all Dudley borough libraries. There are also groups at Cradley Library and Lye Library.

To find out more call into a Dudley library or visit www.dudley.gov.uk/libraries for contact details.

£325k offer to end saga over plan for mosque

SENIOR councillors in Dudley were today (Thursday) due to discuss the offer of an out of court settlement to end the long-running saga over controversial plans to build a new mosque in Dudley.

Dudley Muslim Association (DMA) has offered Dudley Council £325,000 to drop court action blocking plans to build the mosque off Hall Street.

If the proposal from the DMA is accepted the group would retain ownership of the site and the council would end its bid to invoke its buy-back clause.

But the leader of the council's Conservative opposition has dubbed it a 'shabby deal'.

Both Dudley Council and the DMA are due back in court in October. So far the council has spent £213,000 in legal costs.

UKIP and Conservative councillors say spending that money only to settle a deal at this stage would be wrong. But council leader Councillor Pete Lowe said they want the best possible deal for taxpayers.

It is believed the value of the site is around £150,000.

Leader Councillor Pete Lowe

Costly

"This has been a costly exercise for everyone," said Councillor Lowe.

"We have been approached by the Dudley Muslim Association who are keen to avoid any further costly legal disputes for both sides.

"We are carefully considering that offer in the interests of everyone concerned.

"As far as the council is concerned this is about the ownership of the land and getting the best deal for the council taxpayers of this borough."

The proposal will go to scrutiny committees for consideration at a later date.

More than 80,000 people signed petitions against plans for the mosque, which would replace the Dudley Central Mosque in Castle Hill. The controversy has sparked five protests by far-right groups in five years, including three so far this year alone.

Opposition Conservative group leader, Councillor Patrick Harley, hit back saying: "This is a shabby deal coming in behind closed doors through the cabinet."

UKIP group leader Councillor Brothwood said: "After years of pursuing this matter through the legal process, and winning at great cost, it is alarming that a cabinet report has been produced to potentially allow the mosque to be built without it going to full council."

Amjid Raza, spokesperson for the DMA, refused to divulge specifics of the deal. He said: "The DMA is awaiting a response from Dudley MBC which the DMA understands will follow within the next few weeks."

Dudley Council's cabinet were to discuss the proposal today.

Doctor is a Heart Hero

A CARDIOLOGIST from Dudley has been recognised for her long-standing contribution to fighting heart disease.

Dr Jane Flint, who works for the Dudley Group NHS Trust, was the recipient of the Influencing Heart Hero award from the British Heart Foundation. For more than 30 years she has championed the voice of patients, establishing Cardiovascular Care Partnership UK.

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Ballast business in move to new base

A COMPANY that supplies ballast for ship and earthmoving equipment has moved into new premises in Dudley as it targets further growth.

Metalast specialises in the supply of heavyweight ballast and counterweight products for use in the wave technology, offshore power, ship, boat, train, heavy haulage, earthmoving and civil engineering sectors in the UK and Europe.

It has taken the 19,535 sq ft Unit 18 at Blackbrook Valley, Narrowboat Way, Brierley Hill.

Martin Aston of Metalast said "The move into Unit 18 is an important milestone in our growth and marks the start of the next phase in our business development. We are dedicated to maintaining the excellence of our products and services and our new facilities confirm our commitment to our customers."

The unit was leased for owners Pall Mall Investments by the Oldbury office of Bulleys Chartered Surveyors. Max Shelley at Bulleys said: "t shows that well-presented industrial premises are still in demand."

Michael Smith, left, and Bob Peters of Black Country Kitchens launch the business at Brierley Hill

Black Country designer kitchen venture launch

A DUDLEY entrepreneur has invested more than £100,000 into setting up a new kitchen business in Brierley Hill.

Mitchell Smith, a former pupil at Ellowes Hall School, has launched Black Country Kitchens to offer customers bespoke design and installation services and access to more than 60 kitchens across its classical, contemporary and painted ranges.

The qualified carpenter has teamed up with sales manager Bob Peters to equip a showroom on the Delph Road Industrial Estate and has set himself the target of achieving £175,000 turnover in the first year.

A host of special offers are in place to celebrate the launch and, as part of its commitment to sourcing locally, each customer will receive a special Black Country hamper including Bathams and Holdens beer, scratchings, black pudding and faggots.

"We wanted to give people an alternative to the big companies who often give faceless service and the same old 'off the shelf' kitchens," explained Mitchell, who also owns Smith Carpentry Services.

"Customers are bored of the same old flat pack ranges and are looking to increasingly add their own touches and have more of an influence over the design. This is where we really come into our own."

He continued: "Bob has more than 20 years customising kitchens and, using 3D modelling, will work with you to come up with options that match your exact requirements.

"We are proud of our Black Country roots so wanted to highlight that with the hampers."

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One in six pregnant women still smoking

NEARLY one is six of all mothers-to-be in Dudley are smoking throughout their pregnancy, shocking new figures reveal.

A total of 15.7 per cent — down from 16.1 — in the borough continue lighting up during the nine months that they are expecting a baby. That's considerably more than the national average of just 11.4 per cent.

Across the Black Country, Cannock and Stafford, 2,773 women were recorded as smoking at the time of birth in 2014/15, leading to fears unborn babies are being caused serious harm.

Dudley's Councillor Rachel Harris, who oversees health in the borough, said: "We are very disappointed that too many pregnant women are smoking.

"We know it can harm the baby in the womb from day one and causes higher rates of stillbirth, premature birth, low birth weight and sudden infant death.

"However, stopping smoking early in pregnancy can almost completely prevent damage to the baby and stopping at any time during pregnancy reduces the risk of the baby's health being harmed.

Disappointed — Councillor Rachel Harris

Support

"We are working with our partners in the NHS to help pregnant women get the advice and support they need to quit smoking."

She urged all pregnant women who smoke, along with their family and friends who also smoke, to get help and support from the Dudley Stop Smoking Service or their GP.

According to the latest figure from the Health and Social Care Information Centre, 18.8 per cent in Wolverhampton are smoking, up from 18.7 per cent in the previous 12 months. In Walsall it's up from 13.7 to 14.7.

The figure is 10 per cent in Sandwell and West Birmingham — an increase of 0.4 per cent — and 10.4 per cent in Cannock Chase, down from 11.7 per cent. The number in Stafford rose two per cent to 14.5 per cent.

Professor Kevin Fenton, director of health and well-being at Public Health England, said: "There are still significant differences across regions and social groups with the burden and harm hitting hardest in more deprived communities.

"Stopping smoking is the best thing a woman and her partner can do to protect their own health and the health of their baby, both during pregnancy and after.

"Quitting and remaining smoke free can be difficult and, like many smokers, expectant parents may need help."

He added: "Women who smoke need to know that they are increasing the chances of abnormal fetal growth and risking their baby being stillborn."

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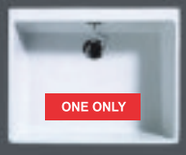

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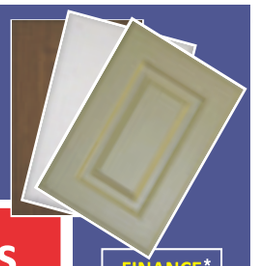

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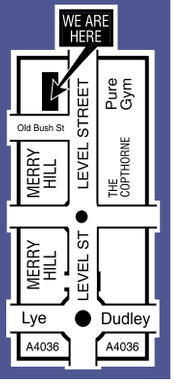

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Face to face with the men who made a classic

ONE of Ziggy Stardust's Spiders from Mars is joining forces with rock producer Tony Visconti to pay tribute to David Bowie's early career at a concert in Birmingham.

Guest singers including Marc Almond and Heaven 17's Glenn Gregory will be joining drummer Woody Woodmansey's group Holy Holy to perform in full Bowie's The Man Who Sold The World album, recorded 45 years ago, at the O2 Academy on Monday.

New Yorker Visconti, who has worked with Bowie intermittently from his breakthrough album Space Oddity in 1969 until 2013's comeback The Next Day, said: "One reason I'm looking forward to playing The Man Who Sold the World album in its entirety again is because lots of people ask me if I still play bass. I do but I've since rarely played anything as ambitious and demanding as the music of that great batch of songs conceived by David Bowie.

"Eventually the album sold a million or two. A great homage to us was to hear Nirvana perform the title track unplugged in the '90s on an MTV special, note for note. A lot of people still believe that Kurt Cobain wrote it."

Visconti is also famous for recordings with T. Rex and in more recent years recorded Morrissey and Kaiser Chiefs. Also performing will be singer Lisa Ronson, daughter of late Spiders from Mars guitarist Mick Ronson, top session guitarist Paul Cuddeford and former Chelsea and Gene Loves Jezebel guitarist James Stevenson.

After playing The Man Who Sold the World album in full, the band will go on to play many of Bowie's greatest songs from the 1969 to '73 era, including Ziggy Stardust and, Woody Woodmansey's signature tune on drums, Five Years.

Tony Visconti played bass on the album

Bowie drummer Woody Woodmansey

Special guest Marc Almond will be singing Bowie classics in Birmingham

Yorkshire rocker Woodmansey, who also drummed on The Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars, Hunky Dory and Aladdin Sane, said: "When we recorded TMWSTW album with David Bowie and Mick Ronson we were all looking forward to presenting it to audiences in a live situation as we felt it would be exciting for us and them. This never came to pass until September last year. From the first song in rehearsals, Width Of A Circle, it was obvious that we were right about our earlier excitement. Each song had its own special magic, as Bowie songs do. We stayed true to the spirit and essence of the songs whilst adding a contemporary edge."

Tickets cost £22.50, see www.o2academybirmingham.co.uk for details.

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Young musicians perform in church

YOUNG musicians will take to the stage in a concert at a Black Country church next month.

Members of Dudley Performing Arts will be performing at St James's Church in Wollaston on July 4.

The students will perform in a string quartet and a woodwind ensemble. There will also be performances from instrumental soloists as well as young singers.

The concert has been organised by Local & Live, a not-for-profit group of music enthusiasts and is part of their regular series of classical concerts. The concert starts at 7.30pm. Tickets are £8, free for under-18s.

Graham Smith, chairman of Local & Live,said: "There are lots of very talented young musicians and excellent music teachers in the Black Country."

Call to halt college cuts that puts jobs and courses at risk

DUDLEY North MP Ian Austin has called on the Government to reverse cutbacks that are putting jobs and training at risk at Dudley College.

The college is facing a cut of £1.4 million which has put 30 jobs and 1,500 student places under threat. The cuts come from the Government's Skills Funding Agency.

Mr Ian Austin raised the college's plight during a debate on education in the House of Commons.

In the debate Mr Austin said: "In areas such as mine, where long-term youth unemployment is three times the national average, not enough young people are going to university, doing apprenticeships or continuing to study at all. We need a Royal Commission so that we can agree as a country that education and skills are the number one priority and set cross-party, long-term goals enabling every child to fulfil their potential."

The college has been building a multi-million pound 'learning quarter' in the town centre, including a sixth form campus, manufacturing centre and a vocational centre.

After the debate, Mr Austin added: "Dudley College are doing a brilliant job helping local businesses grow and educating young people and helping adults get new jobs too. They are doing exactly what ministers have asked colleges to do."

Among the training places under threat as a result of the funding cuts are health and social care courses, as well as early years training delivered in the workplace. A consultation has been taking place with staff at the college. Bosses have been looking at whether workers can be redeployed to other roles.

Baggeridge's bricks recycled

BRICKS leftover from Baggeridge Brickworks, near Sedgley, have been recycled by developers building a 170-home estate at the site.

David Wilson Homes Mercia is using bricks made at the former brickworks on the site around its Baggeridge Village scheme, including walls designed to provide screening between properties.

The firm has also said it will use some of the bricks at its 46-home Woodthorne development in Tettenhall.

Lee Rowley, Contracts Manager at the Baggeridge Village development, said: "Rather than removing these bricks from the site, and after realising they would suit the character and style of the new homes, I decided to incorporate them."

Winner Alex jumps for joy

Thorns Community College student Alex Mullard, aged 16, won a national challenge

YOUNG dancer Alex Mullard came top in a national GCSE challenge and scooped prizes for youngsters following in her footsteps at a Black Country school.

Alex, aged 16, triumphed over more than 400 other students across the country, impressing judges with her creative use of words in describing a piece of music she had listened to.

Her work has now earned her school, Thorns Community College in Quarry Bank, prizes including dance DVDs.

Alex, from Quarry Bank, was put into the final three nationally by a panel of examiners. It was then up to dance students from across the country to decide which piece of work they liked best, not knowing whose it was by, and it was Alex who was chosen and named as the top student.

Dance teacher Kelly Targraphs said: "All the dancers entered into an online revision programme to help them prepare for their written exam. For part of it they listen to a piece of music and have to write a paragraph about the instruments used or the tempo."

The prizes will act as Alex's dance legacy to the college as she has now moved on after completing her exams.

Motivated

Kelly said: "It is something all the dancers from Year 7 to Year 11 can benefit from. She has left a keepsake that we can all keep using.

"She is a very driven and motivated student who has always wanted to excel in dance and she really grafts to get grades and marks. She fully deserves that sort of credit."

Bird watchers will flock to new centre

WITH stunning views across grassland, ponds and hundreds of trees in the distance, it is the perfect vantage point for a spot of bird watching.

This is just one of the areas where visitors to the new RSPB centre at Sandwell Valley nature reserve will be able to observe wildlife. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds is a charitable organisation and construction of the society's £400,000 Nature's Reach complex is now complete, with work now focused on fitting out the inside.

Around 1,500 residents have been invited to have the first look at the centre on July 15, with the new centre to open fully to the public later that week. It is the moment the RSPB has been waiting for since the old building in Sandwell Valley was severely damaged in a devastating arson attack in 2010.

The RSPB is appealing for more volunteers who can help out at the visitor centre. Call 0121 357 7395.

Action over road block

POLICE are cracking down on nuisance parking outside a Stourbridge school.

There have been complaints about drivers causing obstructions near Ham Dingle Primary School in Pedmore.

Police have been carrying out spot checks in a bid to deter those responsible and have also issued an appeal via the school newsletter.

Crews from Stourbridge Fire Station will also be checking Old Ham Lane to ensure it is passable for emergency vehicles.

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A standing ovation for Broadway belter Idina

Idina Menzel, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

BROADWAY'S brightest star opened her UK tour in Birmingham and it was such a priceless night for Midlands musical theatre fans that their standing ovation at the end of her non-stop 110 minute concert showed they didn't want to Let It Go.

The 44-year-old star of Rent and Wicked, best known as the voice of Elsa in Disney's Frozen, showed plenty of chutzpah by opening with her second most popular song, Wicked's Defying Gravity, most familiar of a slew of empowerment anthems that the 21st century equivalent to Streisand has made her own.

Between the belters her banter showed impish good humour and she apologised for occasional earthy language, and besides the big musical numbers she threw a few surprise curve balls, such as an impassioned version of Radiohead's Creep and and a mash up of Cole Porter's Love For Sale with The Police's Roxanne. Her own songs such as Brave and I Stand, co-written with Glen Ballard, held up beside the classics too.

The highlights were Take Me Or Leave Me, from cult musical Rent, in which she shared the mic with several willing young singers from the audience, all of whom did themselves proud, also a tear-jerking a cappella version of For Good and the inevitable, triumphant sing-along-a-Idina version of Let It Go.

Witches from a royal nightmare in new ballet The King Dances *Picture: Bill Cooper*

Fortuna favours a brave and still thrilling ballet

The King Dances, Carmina burana, Birmingham Hippodrome

A SEASON of performances marking David Bintley's 20th anniversary as director of Birmingham Royal Ballet began with a double bill pairing his latest work with his first creation for the company.

Both the world premiere performance of The King Dances and the revival of his calling card at Birmingham, Carmina burana, were spectacular and dramatic, though it was the 1995 ballet danced to Carl Orff's stirring music that got the standing ovation.

The King Dances is inspired by an episode that gave birth to ballet when, in 1653, the teenaged King Louis XIV of France danced the role of Apollo in Le Ballet de la Nuit at the Louvre Palace in Paris.

Le Ballet de la Nuit was rumoured to have lasted 12 hours but Bintley's ballet comes in at a more reasonable 35 minutes. This atmospherically lit piece, in which almost all the roles are danced by men as was the custom then, begins with flaming torches brought on stage by royal retainers.

REVIEWS

by Leon Burakowski

William Bracewell deserved the limelight for his graceful and suitably regal portrayal of the young ruler, especially as he wooed the Moon, a superb performance from Yi-jing Zhang in the only female role.

The most impressive scene was when the King's dream-like adventure turned to nightmare, as the midnight rambling monarch is jostled, pawed and hauled around by a pack of demons, werewolves and long-haired wraiths.

Carmina burana was a feast for the eyes and the ears from the moment soloist Celine Gittens seized the audience's attention with her clockwork precision as a sexy but menacing Fortuna to that electrifying piece of music that has become familiar from TV, film and even football stadiums.

Bintley's version of Sylvia will be staged at the Hippodrome until June 27.

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GA GA - A Tribute to Queen
Friday at 7.45pm
Stafford Gatehouse,
ST16 2LT. 01785 619080

Abbey Road Experience: Wings Over Abbey Road Tribute
Sat at 7.30pm,
Lichfield Garrick, Lichfield,
WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

Roy Orbison & Friends
Fri at 7.30pm,
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

Bon Jovi Experience
Sat at 7.30pm,
Prince Of Wales Centre,
Cannock, WS11 1DE.
Call 01543 578762

Tony Visconti & Woody Woodmansey – The Man Who Sold The World
Mon at 7pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

The Food Fighterz : Foo Fighters Tribute
Fri at 7.30pm,
The River Rooms, Stourbridge,
DY8 1JN. Call 01384 397177

The Decades Band
Sat at 7.30pm,
The River Rooms, Stourbridge,
DY8 1JN. Call 01384 397177

Big Sean
Mon at 7pm,
The Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

RNB & SOUL

Gladys Knight
Sun at 7.30pm,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

FOLK & ACOUSTIC

Irish Music Session
Wed at 12am,
Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston,
Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.
Call 01384 374410

Liquor & Poker Band
Sat at 12am,
Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston,
DY8 3TB.
Call 01384 374410

Kathryn Williams
Wed at 8pm,
Kitchen Garden Cafe, King's Heath, Birmingham, B14 7SA.
Call 0121 443 4725

Edwina Hayes
Mon at 8pm,
The Crescent Theatre,
Sheepcote Street, Birmingham,
B16 8AE.
Call 0121 643 5858

Sandpiper Folk Club Night
Wed at 7.45pm,
Pigot Arms, 11 High Street,
Pattingham,
Wolverhampton, WV6 7BQ.
Call 01902 700207

Common Folk: Singers' Night
Thu at 8.30pm,
Pelsall Cricket & Sports Club,
Walsall Road, Walsall,
WS3 4BP. Call 01922 682018

Brewood Acoustic Club
Thu at 8pm,
Brewood Cricket Club,
Four Ashes Road, Brewood,
ST19 9HX.
Call 01902 850422

Country Music Nights
Sun at 8.15pm, £2
Swan With Two Necks,
Longdon, WS15 4PN.
Call 01543 491570

The Black Feathers / Lewis & Leigh / Paul Mosley
Friday, 7.45pm
The MET Studio
Stafford Gatehouse,
ST16 2LT. 01785 619080

OPEN MICS

Open Mic
Fri at 8pm,
Light House, Fryer Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1HT.
Call 01902 716055

Open Mic Night
Mon at 12am,
Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston,
Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.
Call 01384 374410

CLASSICAL & OTHER MUSIC

Worcestershire Youth Music 2015
Tue at 7pm,
Palace Theatre, Alcester Street,
Redditch, B98 8AE.
Call 01527 65203

Birmingham Dream Cymbals Day
Sun at 6pm - 11pm,
The Glee Club, Birmingham,
B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

Frank Sinatra Jnr And Orchestra: Frank Sinatra Tribute
Tue at 8pm,
Symphony Hall, Broad Street,
Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

CBSO Schools Concert: Bite-Size Classics
Thu at 11.30am, 1.30pm,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Burt Bacharach
Wed at 7.30pm,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

THEATRE

You Should Ask Wallace!
Thursday 2nd July, 7.30pm
Stafford Gatehouse,
ST16 2LT. Call 01785 619080

Crescent Youth Theatre Summer Showcase 15
Sat at 7pm,
The Crescent Theatre,
Birmingham, B16 8AE.
Call 0121 643 5858

A Night At The Movies
Fri at 7.30pm,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

JJTA Promotions: Just Dance
Sat at 7pm,
Palace Theatre, Redditch,
B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

Limits
Sun at 7.30pm,
Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton,
WV1 1SE. Call 01902 321321

BE Festival 2015: Before/(don't) Trust Me/Quintetto/ Sobrejulieta/Game
Sat at 6.30pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

BE Festival 2015: Correction/ Mouvma!/the Whistle/Of Miracles And Wonders, Optimistic Conference
Fri at 7pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Octonauts And The Deep Sea Volcano Adventure
Wed at 1pm, 4.30pm, Thu at 1pm, 4.30pm,
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

Jane Eyre
Wed at 7.30pm,
Birmingham Botanical Gardens,
Edgbaston, Birmingham,
B15 3TR. Call 0121 454 1860

The Russell Brand Effect – The Morning After
Mon at 8pm - 9.30pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Don't Leave Me Now
Mon at 2pm, 6pm,
Light House, Wolverhampton,
WV1 1HT.
Call 01902 716055

Arabesque School Of Dance Proudly Presents Disney Delights
Sun at 5pm,
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

The Mousetrap
Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm,
Wed at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 573320

Theatre In The Gardens – Emma
Wed at 7pm,
The Shugborough Estate,
Milford, near Stafford,
ST17 0XB.
Call 01889 881388

Oklahoma!
Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 2pm,
7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm,
Birmingham Hippodrome,
B5 4TB.
Call 0844 338 5000

Disney's High School Musical JR
Fri at 7pm - 9pm, Sat at 3pm - 5pm, 7pm - 9pm,
Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton,
WV1 1SE. Call 01902 321321

Birmingham Royal Ballet: Sylvia
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm,
7.30pm,
Birmingham Hippodrome,
B5 4TB.
Call 0844 338 5000

Dreamboats And Miniskirts
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm,
7.30pm,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 573320

COMEDY

Tom Allen: Life/Style & Carly Smallman: Made In Penge
Fri at 7.45pm - 10pm,
Palace Theatre, Redditch,
B98 8AE.
Call 01527 65203

EdinBrum Previews: Lucy Porter & Hal Cruttenden
Thu at 7.30pm,
mac, Cannon Hill Road,
Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

TALKS

Bromsgrove Festival: Taking A Bow (Or A Jump) With Michael Seal: Talk
Wed at 12pm,
Avoncroft Museum of
Historic Buildings, Stoke Heath,
Bromsgrove, B60 4JR.
Call 01527 831363

Nick Baker: Weird Creatures
Fri at 7.30pm,
Palace Theatre, Redditch,
B98 8AE.
Call 01527 65203

Ranulph Fiennes: A Life At The Limits: Talk
Mon at 7.30pm,
Birmingham Town Hall,
B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

FOOD & DRINK

Food Market
Sun at 10.30am - 3.30pm,
mac, Cannon Hill Road,
Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

FAMILY

Armed Forces Day
Sat at 12am,
Royal Air Force Museum,
Cosford, Shifnal, TF11 8UP.
Call 01902 376200

The Country Show
Sat at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 10am - 5pm,
The Shugborough Estate,
Milford, Stafford, ST17 0XB.
Call 01889 881388

Youth Theatre: Workshop (Ages 12-16)
Sat at 11am - 1pm,
The Rose Theatre,
Broadwaters, Kidderminster,
DY10 2RX.
Call 01562 743745

Little Friends Baby and Toddler Group
Fri at 10am - 12pm,
The Museum Of Cannock Chase,
Hednesford, WS12 1TD.
Call 01543 877666

Central Youth Theatre: Workshop (Ages 7-12)
Sun at 11am - 1pm,
Newhampton Arts Centre,
Wolverhampton, WV1 4AN.
Call 01902 572090

LOCAL CINEMA

Lambert & Stamp
Fri at 5.50pm, Sat at 8.05pm, Sun at 5.50pm, Mon at 8.15pm, Tue at 2pm, 5.50pm, Wed at 8.15pm, Thu at 5.50pm,
Light House, Wolverhampton,
WV1 1HT.
Call 01902 716055

The Living Daylights + Licence To Kill
Sun at 2pm,
Vue Cinemas, Birmingham,
B7 5SA.
Call 0871 224 0240

Hope And Glory
Sat at 2pm,
Light House, Wolverhampton,
WV1 1HT.
Call 01902 716055

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

People are saying that they're in love

BIRMINGHAM Hippodrome panto favourite Gary Wilmot returns to the city next week as one of the stars of the latest revival of classic American musical Oklahoma!

Song-and-dance man Wilmot, who before becoming a panto dame in Birmingham was leading man in such shows as Me and My Girl and Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, will play 'Persian peddler' Ali Hakim in Rodgers and Hammerstein's foot-stomping musical set on the prairie.

This new production from Northampton's Royal and Derngate is directed by former Birmingham Rep artistic director Rachel Kavanaugh.

The show features new choreography from Birmingham-born Drew McOnie, who also worked with Wilmot on Hippodrome panto Jack and the Beanstalk.

West End star Ashley Day, who has spent the past couple of years in hit London show The Book of Mormon, will stride out onto the stage as handson cowboy hero Curly to belt out Oh What a Beautiful Mornin'.

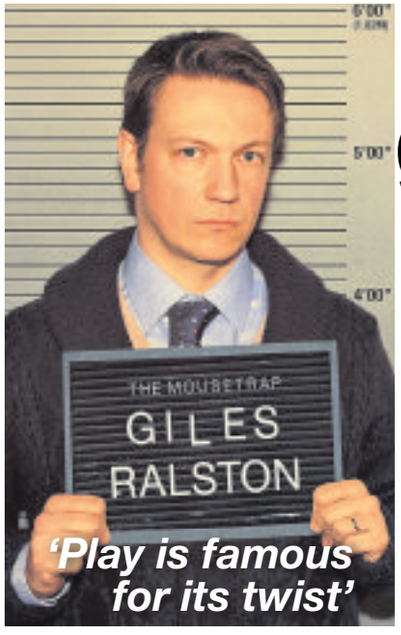
Playing the girl of his dreams, Laurey, is Holby City's Charlotte Wakefield, a soprano who has twice been nominated for Olivier awards, for Spring Awakening in the West End and The Sound Of Music at Regent's Park.

Providing the comic support will by 2point4 Children's Belinda Lang as Aunt Eller and Lucy May Barker, from Spring Awakening and Sweeney Todd as Ado Annie, the girl who just 'cain't say no', whilst the show's famous villain Jud is played by former Phantom of the Opera Nic Greenshields.

From the award-winning producers of The King & I and Fiddler on the Roof, this brand new production features a large chorus as well as a live orchestra, performing the songs Surrey With a Fringe on Top, People Will Say We're in Love and Kansas City.

Oklahoma! is staged from Tuesday to Saturday (June 30-July 4). Tickets are priced £18 to £40 and can be booked on 0844 338 5000 or online at www.birminghamhippodrome.com

Ashley Day and Charlotte Wakefield in Oklahoma! Picture: Pamela Raith



'Play is famous for its twist'

Don't dare give it away

ONE of the best kept secrets in theatreland will be revealed at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre when The Mousetrap by Queen of Crime Agatha Christie arrives on tour.

The murder mystery play opened in London's West End in 1952 and has been running continuously ever since, making it the longest running show of any kind in the world.

It actually got its premiere at Nottingham and was staged at Birmingham's Alexandra Theatre on tour before opening at London's Ambassadors Theatre in November 1952. It ran at that theatre until moving next door to the larger St Martin's Theatre in March 1974, where it is still running. Foreign productions have broken records from Sydney to Singapore.

The play, which during its phenomenal 60 year run has featured more than 400 actors, is famous for its twist which audiences are asked not to reveal to anyone else.

The touring production coming to the Grand from Monday to Saturday, June 29 to July 4, features former EastEnders actor Mark Homer as Giles Ralston. Jonathan Sidgwick, from Coronation Street and Hollyoaks, plays Mr Paravicini with Hester Arden as Miss Casewell, Edward Elgood as Christopher Wren, and Esther McAuley as Mollie Ralston

William Ilkley joins from the West End production of The Mousetrap as Major Metcalf alongside Luke Jenkins and Anne Kavanagh who will reprise their roles from the record-breaking 2014 tour as Sergeant Trotter and Mrs Boyle.

Tickets range from £11.50 to £29.50. See www.grandtheatre.co.uk or call 01902 429 212.

Sinatra Jr leads a tribute to his father

THE son of Ol' Blue Eyes, Frank Sinatra Jr, will by paying tribute to his father at Birmingham's Symphony Hall on Tuesday to mark the centenary of his birth.

Frank Jr will be accompanied by an orchestra to perform such timeless songs as Strangers in the Night, I've Got You Under My Skin and New York New York. Tickets start at £25 plus fees.

Next Friday (July 3) jazz singer Claire Martin will team up with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra to present a tribute to the late great Ella Fitzgerald. Tickets start at £12.50 plus fees. See www.thsh.co.uk or call 0121 345 0600.

Soap stars feature in a twisted thriller

A STAG night prank has terrifying consequences in Dead Simple, an adaptation by Shaun McKenna of Peter James's best-selling crime thriller, staged at the New Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham, Monday to Saturday, June 29-July 4.

Olivier award nominated director Ian Talbot directs a star-studded cast featuring Tina Hobley from Holby City, ex-EastEnders regular Jamie Lomas, David McKell from Doctors and Emmerdale's Rik Makarem.

Playing Detective Roy Grace will be Gray O'Brien, 2009 British Soap Awards Villain of the Year for playing Tony Gordon in Coronation Street.

Legends of pop have city dates

STARS associated with iconic pop songs are coming to Birmingham next week.

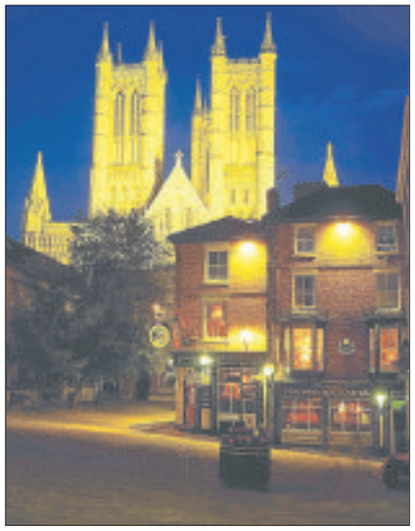
Soul legend Gladys Knight, best known for Midnight Train to Georgia, has sold out her date at Symphony Hall on Sunday. On Wednesday the prestigious venue hosts Burt Bacharach with orchestra. Bacharach has written dozens of hits such as classics Walk On By, Make It Easy on Yourself, I Say a Little Prayer and That's What Friends Are For.

Fabulous falsetto Frankie Valli and the latest incarnation of The Four Seasons bring the sounds of New Jersey to the Genting Arena on July 2.

The reopening of Lincoln Castle following its transformation

The cinema within the Magna Carta Visitor Centre

Aerial shot of Lincoln Cathedral, with the restored castle above



A beautifully illuminated Lincoln Cathedral

Such a Magna-ficent city with historical Lincs to royal charter

By Paul Naylor

EIGHT centuries after the sealing of Magna Carta by King John in Surrey, there are only four known surviving copies in existence.

Two belong to the British Library and one to Salisbury Cathedral. The fourth, owned by Lincoln Cathedral, is now on permanent display in a new exhibit at Lincoln Castle.

Lincoln is very much at the centre of renewed interest for the document signed in 1215. Translated as The Great Charter, Magna Carta established the principle that everybody, including the king, was subject to the law. Magna Carta remains a cornerstone of the British constitution to this day.

Visitor numbers for Lincoln are on the rise, and not just because of its links to the world famous charter. There is plenty more to the city. My son and I stayed at The White Hart, a traditional hotel with a modern twist and stunning views of both the cathedral and newly restored castle walls.

Our suite was a tasteful combination of both old and new. This is the case throughout the lovely hotel, including the superb Grille restaurant on the ground floor.

Transformed

Following a hearty breakfast we made our way on foot the short distance to the castle. Under the direction of Mary Powell, programme manager of Lincoln Castle Revealed, the historic site has been spectacularly transformed. Visitors can now take part in the Lincoln Castle Wall Walk, aided by an electronic audio guide.

The site is also home to two former prisons, one from the Georgian period, another from the Victorian era. Both provide a fascinating addition to the castle and offer an unusual trip through the centuries.

My son Matthew, who is keen on history, was particularly taken with the Victorian prison chapel and enjoyed dressing as an inmate.

However, it is the Magna Carta Visitor Centre, now home to the famous document, and Charter of the Forest, which is drawing crowds. The visitor centre also includes a 'wall of words' translating the script to modern English and a large curved cinema screen to tell the document's story. Copies of the shields of the 25 barons who were present at the sealing of Magna Carta are displayed too. And the latest attraction is a Saxon sarcophagus discovered on an archaeological dig in the castle grounds containing the 1,000-year-old remains of its occupant.

A highlight for many visiting the city will be its wonderful cathedral, where guide Colin Hill brought the site to life. Building commenced in 1088 and continued in phases throughout the medieval period and was for the best part of 240 years the tallest building in the world.

Visitors can also marvel at the services chapels, one of each dedicated to the Army, RAF and Navy, while for those who enjoy all things relating to military history, a visit to The Museum of Lincolnshire Life is a must.

Venture into the city centre and head for The Fossdyke Canal Trail which runs alongside the Fossdyke Navigation. Walk or cycle towpaths, or relax in style on a water taxi ride from Brayford mooring to the Pyewipe Inn for a tasty meal. Alternatively, take a leisurely cruise on the Brayford Belle. A fabulous way to round off a memorable trip.

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CHOICE

George Layton

Casualty (BBC1, 8.55pm)
Charlie continues his efforts to help Louis manage his heroin withdrawal, but seems to be fighting a losing battle with his son, while Cal convinces a pushy mum to come clean to her daughter after she fails to reach a beauty pageant. Robyn and Zach finally share a kiss, Dylan's bad day suddenly improves after he mistakenly pockets a 'lucky' talisman, and Zoe and Max fall out over money, with Max choosing to spend a night sleeping in the car after his embarrassment becomes too much for him to bear. Derek Thompson, Gregory Foreman, Suzanne Packer, Amanda Mealing, William Beck and Sunetra Sarker star.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** The Box. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.00** Holiday of My Lifetime with Len Goodman. (R) **2.30** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. Warrington Wolves v Leigh Centurions (Kick-off 3.00pm). **5.05** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.50** Pointless Celebrities. (R)

6.40 BBC News.

6.50 Regional Programme.

7.00 Prized Apart. The eight remaining adventurers are in the ancient city of Fes, Morocco, where they face a shopping trip with a difference in order to avoid tackling the survival challenge. The contestants are split into two teams for their first test, set on the labyrinthine streets and alleyways of the city, with the losing team then having to take a terrifying leap into the darkness of north Africa's largest cave. The lowest-ranked three contestants are then flown back to their studio partners in the UK, who have to answer quiz questions to make it through to the next round. Presented by Emma Willis and Reggie Yates.

8.05 The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins. Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject.

8.55 Casualty. Charlie continues his efforts to help Louis manage his heroin withdrawal, while Cal convinces a pushy mum to come clean to her daughter after she fails to reach a beauty pageant.

9.45 The John Bishop Show. The comedian presents an evening of entertainment, recorded at the Hackney Empire theatre in London, including music by Leona Lewis and a stand-up routine by Lee Nelson.

10.30 BBC News; Weather.; National Lottery Update.

10.50 Not Going Out. Lucy aspires to be friends with posh new neighbours Toby and Anna, but has not reckoned on Lee dragging her right back down to earth. Hugh Dennis guest stars. (R)

11.20 Room 101 – Extra Storage. (R)

12.00 Film: The Hot Chick. (2002) **1.40** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.45** BBC News.

BBC2

6.10 Film: The Lost Squadron. (1932) **7.30 Film:** East of Sudan. (1964) **9.00** Wimbledon Classics. **11.00** Kangaroo Dundee. (R) **11.30** Kangaroo Dundee. (R) **12.00** James Martin's Food Map of Britain. (R) **12.15** Alex Polizzi: Chefs on Trial. (R) **1.15** Tennis from Eastbourne. The AEGON International final. **4.00** Flog It! (R) **4.30** Glastonbury 2015.

6.00 Gardeners' World. (R)

6.30 Edwardian Farm. In January, the trio struggle to keep afloat during the harsh winter as Alex Langlands and Peter Ginn work in a tin mine in Cornwall. (R)

7.30 Japan: Earth's Enchanted Islands. The documentary examining the wildlife of the east Asian country focuses on Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost island and a place totally unlike the rest of the country. Every year it swings from a bitter Siberian winter into the warmth of a Mediterranean-like summer, with the thaw revealing a landscape changed beyond all recognition. It takes hardy animals and tough people with real ingenuity to survive in this ever-changing place. Last in the series. (R)

8.30 Dad's Army. An invasion alert throws Mainwaring's hopeless would-be heroes into a panic, leading one half of the platoon to launch an attack on the other. (R)

9.00 Mock the Week. Ed Byrne, Sara Pascoe, James Acaster and Gary Delaney join host Dara O Briain and regulars Hugh Dennis and Andy Parsons for the topical comedy quiz show. (R)

9.30 Glastonbury 2015. Mark Radcliffe and Gemma Cairney present further coverage from Worthy Farm, including highlights of soul and R&B star Pharrell Williams' set and the headline performance by rapper Kanye West on the Pyramid Stage. Jo Whiley and Huw Stephens then take over hosting duties to bring a selection of acts from the second day at Glastonbury, including music from The Mothership Returns with George Clinton, Parliament, Funkadelic & the Family Stone, as well as a peek at the late-night high jinks that go on under the cover of darkness, and acoustic performances in the studio.

1.00 Film: The Infidel. (2010) **2.40** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Super 4. (R) **7.45** Super 4. (R) **8.00** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **8.10** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.20** ITV News; Weather. **12.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.35** Surprise Surprise. (R) **2.35** 1000 Heartbeats. (R) **3.35** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **4.20 Film:** Scooby-Doo. (2002)

6.00 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.10 ITV News; Weather.

6.30 You've Been Framed! Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps, as Mick Jagger's son attempts to backflip off his dad's lower lip, and Caroline Flack goes up in flames at a fracking party. (R)

7.00 Film: Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix. (2007) The young wizard struggles to convince his fellow sorcerers that the evil Lord Voldemort has returned to life. When Hogwarts headmaster Dumbledore is ousted in favour of a sadistic replacement, Harry realises he must take matters into his own hands, uniting his fellow pupils to form a secret army and training them for the inevitable confrontation to come. Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson, Rupert Grint, Gary Oldman, Michael Gambon and Alan Rickman.

9.40 Black Work. Detective drama, starring Sheridan Smith as a police officer investigating her husband's murder behind her colleagues' backs, a search that places her family in danger. (R)

10.40 ITV News; Weather.

10.55 FIA Formula E Championship. The London ePrix. Highlights of the opening race of the weekend, which served as the 10th round of the season, and was staged at Battersea Park Street Circuit in London.

11.55 The Chase. Bradley Walsh presents as four contestants answer general knowledge questions and work as a team to take on quiz genius the Chaser and secure a cash prize. (R)

12.50 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

8.00 The Morning Line. **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.50** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.20** The Simpsons. (R) **11.50** The Simpsons. (R) **12.25** The Simpsons. (R) **12.55** Rude(ish) Tube. **1.25** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Newcastle and Newmarket. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.45** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.15** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.50** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.15 Come Dine with Me. It is the final day of the dinner party contest in Derby and the turn of confident triathlete David Morris to host, before the winner of the £1,000 prize is announced. (R)

6.40 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Walking Through History. Tony Robinson sets off on a 45-mile hike through the countryside of the Weald in Kent and the Downs of East Sussex to discover the area's rich and surprising Tudor heritage. At Penshurst Place, author Philippa Gregory helps him relish the fate of the Grand Duke of Buckingham at the hands of the young Henry VIII. From there, he travels up what used to be secret paths to Hever Castle and finds out how the monarch's reign brought not only huge social, political and industrial change, but also fame and disaster to the women who caught his eye He ends this leg of his journey in Lewes, where he relives one of the more brutal monastic dissolutions. (R)

8.00 Penelope Keith's Hidden Villages. The actress travels to north-west England and north Wales, where she explores a Victorian garden in the shadow of a nuclear power plant, and finds out about tourism in Snowdonia.

9.00 Film: Taken 2. (2012) Premiere. Former CIA agent Bryan Mills and his ex-wife Lenore are taken hostage in Istanbul by an Albanian gangster, whose son Bryan killed while bringing down a kidnapping ring. He is able to escape with the aid of his daughter, and together they fight to rescue Lenore and wipe out the criminal family. Action thriller sequel, starring Liam Neeson.

10.55 Film: Babylon AD. (2008)

12.40 Street Sound and Style. (R) **1.05** The Last Leg. (R) **2.05** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.10** Hugh's 3 Good Things: Best Bites. (R) **4.25** The Renovation Game. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.35** Access. **10.50** Stop! Police Interceptors. (R) **11.45** Stop! Police Interceptors. (R) **12.50 Film:** Columbo: Playback. (1975) Crime drama, with Peter Falk. **2.20 Film:** The Green Berets. (1968) Vietnam War adventure, starring John Wayne. **5.05** 5 News Weekend. **5.10** GPs: Behind Closed Doors. (R)

6.10 Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. Documentary highlighting alarming tales from all sides of the buy-to-let system, beginning with a letting agent who turned out to be a fraudster. (R)

7.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. High Court enforcement officers Paul Bohill and Steve and Ben Pinner face their biggest eviction yet – taking on squatters in a large central London office block. With the help of the police, they try to remove a suspected group of 70 from the building, but with a barricade in place, the team faces a challenging operation ahead. Elsewhere, officers are confronted by an army of family and friends when they attempt to enforce a writ at the property of a debtor, and face a difficult eviction at the north London home of a heavily pregnant tenant and her family, after the council fails to pay the rent to the landlord. (R)

8.00 Celebs on Benefits: Fame to Claim. Documentary following former Corrie star Bruce Jones (Les Battersby) and one-time Big Brother contestant Lisa Appleton, who have gone from signing autographs to signing on the dole. (R)

9.00 Big Brother: Back to the 80s. Daily round-up of highlights, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chit-chat.

10.00 The 80s: The Best of Bad TV. A look back at memorable TV highlights from the 1980s, focusing on the best and worst that the decade had to offer.

11.30 Jackass. Johnny Knoxville and his friends present more crazy stunts and wind-ups, including Johnny and the Alligator, Blind Driver, Pontius Skating and Jockstrap Roller. (R)

11.55 Access. (R)

12.00 SuperCasino. **3.10** Big Brother: Back to the 80s. (R) **4.00** Person of Interest. (R) **4.50** Make It Big. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 George Ezra and Clean Bandit @ Glastonbury **8.00** Years & Years and the Maccabees @ Glastonbury **8.50** Match of the Day Live: Women's World Cup. The third quarter-final (Kick-off 9.00pm). **11.00** Ben Howard and Deadmau5 @ Glastonbury **12.15** Match of the Day Live: Women's World Cup. **2.25** Booze, Bar Crawls and Bulgaria: Stacey Dooley Investigates **3.25** Parents' Evening **3.50** Close

BBC Four
7.00 Burt Bacharach @ Glastonbury **8.00** Paloma Faith @ Glastonbury **9.00** Cordon **10.40** Suede @ Glastonbury **12.00** Top of the Pops: 1980 **12.40** Brothers in Arms **1.40** Definitely Dusty **2.40** Suede @ Glastonbury **4.00** Close

ITV2
2.10 Film: Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium (2007) **4.05** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **4.35** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **6.05** Minion Madness **6.20 Film:** A Cinderella Story (2004) **8.10 Film:** Along Came Polly (2004) **10.00** Love Island **11.00 Film:** Bachelorette (2012) **12.50** The Keith Lemon Sketch Show **1.45** Love Island **2.35** Teleshopping

ITV3
8.00 Foyle's War **10.00** A Touch of Frost **12.05** Wire in the Blood **1.30** Judge Judy **1.50** Man About the House **2.20** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
11.30 Live FIA Formula E Championship. **1.15** Counting Cars **1.45** Goals of the 80s **2.00** British Superbike Championship Highlights **3.00** Live FIA Formula E Championship. The London ePrix. **5.30** Storage Wars: New York **6.00** Storage Wars: Texas **6.30** World Series of Darts: Yokohama **11.30 Film:** The Wicker Man (1973) **1.20** The Professionals **2.20** Nitro Circus **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
11.00 Baby Daddy **12.00** The Goldbergs **1.00** How I Met Your Mother **2.00** The Big Bang Theory **3.00** Made in Chelsea **4.00 Film:** The Addams Family (1991) **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Friends with Benefits (2011) **11.05** Gogglebox **1.15** 2 Broke Girls **1.50** Rules of Engagement **2.45** How I Met Your Mother **4.15** Make It or Break It

Film4
11.00 Written on the Wind (1956) **1.00** Chalet Girl (2011) **2.55** True Grit (1969) **5.40** Avatar (2009) **9.00** Kick-Ass (2010) **11.15** Super (2010) **1.05** The Squad (2011) **3.20** Close

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Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, June 25, 2015

CHOICE

Anna Friel

Odyssey
(BBC2, 9.15pm)
New series. Double bill. During a mission with her US army special ops team in Mali, North Africa, Sgt Odelle Ballard stumbles upon encrypted files that prove a major American corporation is secretly funding terrorists and copies it onto a flash drive. She is then the sole survivor of an attack on her unit and must make the grueling journey back home. Back in the US, business Investigator Pete Decker uncovers corruption in the private sector, and G8 protest organizer Harrison Walters begins to suspect a government cover-up. Thriller, starring Anna Friel, Peter Facinelli, Jake Robinson and Jim True-Frost.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Prized Apart. (R) **2.20** Holiday of My Lifetime with Len Goodman. (R) **2.50** Flog It! (R) **3.25** Escape to the Continent. (R) **4.25** Songs of Praise. **5.00** Nigel Slater: Eating Together. (R) **5.30** Nature's Greatest Dancers. New series. Steve Backshall presents footage of animals dancing set to music.

6.30 BBC News.

6.50 Regional Programme.

7.00 Countryfile. John Craven visits Dartmoor to investigate its working history, visiting a project to restore old watercourses that powered the mining industry, meeting a farmer who has diversified into forestry and making camping pods, and talking to photographer Chris Chapman and folk musician Jim Causley about the area's history. Plus, a compilation of the show's best features on working landscapes, featuring clay quarries, rare horses and an underground amusement park. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. The roving team values more decorative objects and rarities belonging to the public.

9.00 Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell. England is plunged into chaos as ancient magical forces are unleashed on the world and the dark prophecy of the Raven King looks to be fulfilled. Norrell flees to the safety of his library, but is pursued by Strange, who intends to free Arabella before the Gentleman's curse consumes him. Childermass tries to find a way to break the enchantment on Lady Pole, as Stephen is drawn deeper into the sinister world of the Fairy kingdom. Conclusion of the fantasy drama starring Bertie Carvel and Eddie Marsan. Last in the series.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 A David Attenborough Special.

11.05 Don't Tell the Bride. The popular BBC Three wedding planning series makes the jump to BBC One, and with the move comes an increased budget. (R)

12.05 Weather for the Week Ahead.
12.10 BBC News.

BBC2

6.05 Animal Park. (R) **6.35** The Big Allotment Challenge. (R) **7.35** Countryfile. (R) **8.35** Gardeners' World. (R) **9.05** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.35** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.05** The Box. (R) **11.35** Alex Polizzi: Chefs on Trial. (R) **12.35** Wimbledon Review 2014. **1.35 Film:** From Here to Eternity. (1953) Second World War drama, starring Burt Lancaster. **3.30** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. St Helens v Widnes Vikings (Kick-off 4.00pm).

6.15 Glastonbury 2015. Lauren Laverne, Mark Radcliffe and Jo Whiley present coverage of Sunday afternoon's performances at the festival, including Lionel Richie on the Pyramid Stage in this year's Sunday Afternoon Legends spot. Plus, performances by Patti Smith, Future Islands and Hozier, an acoustic set by Malian desert blues group Songhoy Blues and Gemma Cairney's latest report on the unseen areas of the festival.

8.00 Top Gear. Compilation of two features from the most recent series. The presenters immerse themselves in the world of classic cars, with Jeremy Clarkson in a Fiat 124 Spider, Richard Hammond in an MGB GT and James May in a Peugeot 304 Cabriolet. They also enter the world of the sports utility vehicle as they find out what sort of SUV can be bought for just a few hundred pounds before putting them through a series of challenges.

9.15 Odyssey. New series. Double bill. During a mission with her US army special ops team in Mali, North Africa, Sgt Odelle Ballard stumbles upon encrypted files that prove a major American corporation is secretly funding terrorists and copies it onto a flash drive. She is then the sole survivor of an attack on her unit and must make the grueling journey back home. Back in the US, business Investigator Pete Decker uncovers corruption in the private sector, and G8 protest organizer Harrison Walters begins to suspect a government cover-up. Thriller, starring Anna Friel and Peter Facinelli.

10.40 Glastonbury 2015.

1.00 Film: Treacle Jr. (2010) **2.20** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **3.15** Holby City. (R) **4.15** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.30** Live FIA Formula E Championship. **1.15** ITV News; Weather. **1.30** Long Lost Family. (R) **2.30** Off Their Rockers. (R) **3.00** Live FIA Formula E Championship. The second race of the London ePrix. **5.45** Love Your Garden. (R)

6.45 Regional Programme; Weather.

7.00 ITV News; Weather.

7.15 Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show in which three contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000.

8.00 Surprise Surprise. Holly Willoughby makes more dreams come true for unsuspecting members of the public. An unsuspecting mother is flown to the studio by helicopter, a family that was divided by a devastating illness is reunited, and a ballroom dancing class in Blackpool is taken over by street dance group Diversity, who have a surprise in store for one of the members.

9.00 Black Work. A suspect is taken into custody for Ryan's murder, but Jo is not convinced the police have the guilty party. She continues to investigate her husband's undercover work, discovering dark secrets relating to both his colleagues and the criminals they were pursuing, and finally coming to a disturbing revelation about the man she married.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.20 FIA Formula E Championship. The London ePrix. Highlights of the second race of the weekend, which served as the 11th and final round of the campaign, and was staged at Battersea Park Street Circuit in London.

11.20 Bear Grylls: Mission Survive. The celebrities navigate their way through dense jungle down a ravine, before eating live scorpions and facing their first big test – a descent of a 120ft waterfall. (R)

12.20 Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **4.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.05** Ginetta GT5 Challenge. **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) **1.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.30 Film:** Edward Scissorhands. (1990) Tim Burton's fantasy, starring Johnny Depp. **4.35** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.35** A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun.

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Kevin McCloud's Escape to the Wild. Kevin travels to Central America to meet British family-of-five the Atkinsons, who have quit London to live a simpler existence in the rainforests of Belize. As he attempts to understand their motivations for the move, he suffers from the heat, is attacked by swarms of biting insects and shares his mud hut with a large scorpion, but begins to appreciate the rewards of a simple jungle life, one in which they've constructed a two-storey building entirely from recycled rubbish. (R)

8.00 Amazing Spaces Shed of the Year 2015. George Clarke and the judges visit the nominees in the Unique Sheds category, which include a Japanese-style treehouse, a shed built in a tree 16 metres in the air, a gothic folly and the smallest shed in the competition, which forms part of a model railway. They also examine the entries for best historical shed, including an Anglo-Saxon dwelling, a 1950s diner, a writing hut that once belonged to George Bernard Shaw and a corrugated cottage from the Second World War.

9.00 Humans. Laura tries to get rid of Anita, but is forced to reconsider when the synth saves Toby's life. Pete and Karen investigate a murder, and George plans to escape his joyless routine.

10.00 Film: The Cold Light of Day. (2012) A man searching for his kidnapped family is caught in the middle of a conflict between rival intelligence agents. Thriller, starring Henry Cavill, Bruce Willis and Sigourney Weaver.

11.55 Rude Tube. (R)

12.50 Film: Blue Valentine. (2010) **2.45** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.05** The Renovation Game. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.35** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.45** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.55** Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) **7.00** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.15** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.20** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** Paw Patrol. **7.50** Little Princess. (R) **8.00** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **8.10** Zack and Quack. (R) **8.25** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.45** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.00** LazyTown. (R) **9.30** Dora and Friends. (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.35** The Secret Life of Pets. (R) **11.05** Stop! Police Interceptors. (R) **12.05 Film:** The Land Before Time. (1988) Animated adventure, with the voice of Gabriel Damon. **1.20 Film:** The Princess Bride. (1987) Comic fantasy adventure, starring Cary Elwes. **3.15 Film:** Spies Like Us. (1985) Comedy, starring Chevy Chase and Dan Aykroyd. **5.05** 5 News Weekend. **5.10 Film:** Beetlejuice. (1988) Tim Burton's supernatural comedy, starring Michael Keaton.

6.55 Film: Dirty Dancing. (1987) A dance instructor at a 1960s resort hotel fears his career will be jeopardised when his regular partner is forced to pull out of an important show in which they are due to perform. Luckily, a naive teenager is happy to step in, and is treated to a whirlwind holiday education in life, love and expressing herself. Romantic drama, starring Patrick Swayze, Jennifer Grey and Jerry Orbach. Edited for violence, language and sexual content.

9.00 Big Brother: Back to the 80s. Daily round-up of highlights, revealing how the housemates are getting on under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chit-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.

10.00 Greatest 80s Movies. Ronni Ancona narrates a countdown of viewers' favourite films from the decade, including ET, Top Gun, The Goonies, Ghostbusters, Beverly Hills Cop and Ferris Bueller's Day Off. (R)

12.50 Jackass. Johnny Knoxville tries his hand at sumo wrestling. (R) **1.15** SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.10** Big Brother: Back to the 80s. Daily round-up of highlights. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. A cluttered B&B on the Norfolk coast. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Don't Tell the Bride **8.00** Alt-J & Charli XCX @ Glastonbury **9.00** Lianne La Havas & Jamie T @ Glastonbury **10.30** The Chemical Brothers @ Glastonbury **11.30** Family Guy **12.15** American Dad! **12.35** Family Guy **1.55** Freshers, Sex and Suspicious Parents **2.45** Don't Tell the Bride **3.40** Great Movie Mistakes V: Revenge of the Fifth **3.55** Close

BBC Four
7.00 Horizon: The Power of the Placebo **8.00** Paul Weller @ Glastonbury **9.00** Pappano's Classic Voices **10.00** Arena: Nicolas Roeg – It's About Time **11.00 Film:** Walkabout (1971) **12.40** Irish Rock at the BBC **1.35** Paul Weller @ Glastonbury **2.35** Horizon: The Power of the Placebo **3.35** Close

ITV2
12.00 Catchphrase **12.40** Take Me Out **1.50** Take Me Out – The Gossip **2.35** Love Island **3.35** Minion Madness **3.50 Film:** Despicable Me (2010) **5.45 Film:** The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (2012) **9.00** Love Island **10.00 Film:** The Break-Up (2006) **12.15** Crazy Beaches **12.40** Love Island **1.40** Fake Reaction **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
9.00 Caroline Quentin's National Parks **10.00 Film:** Wimbledon (2004) **12.00** Wycliffe **1.05** On the Buses **2.00** Judge Judy **2.45** Cornwall with Caroline Quentin **3.30** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale

ITV4
11.00 Live British Touring Car Championship. Round five from Croft. **6.15** World Series of Darts: Yokohama **11.15 Film:** Exit Wounds (2001) **1.25** River Monsters **2.30** Movies Now **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
12.30 Couples Come Dine with Me **2.35** The Goldbergs **3.30** The Big Bang Theory **6.00 Film:** Spy Kids 4: All the Time in the World (2011) **7.45** Rude(ish) Tube Short **8.00** The Big Bang Theory **10.00** Gogglebox **12.05** The Big Bang Theory **12.35** Tattoo Fixers **1.40** Tattoos After Dark **2.35** My Mad Fat Diary **3.30** Hollyoaks

Film4
11.00 Arabian Adventure (1979) **1.00** Big (1988) **3.15** The Towering Inferno (1974) **6.35** 27 Dresses (2008) **9.00** The Mechanic (2011) Action thriller remake, starring Jason Statham and Ben Foster. **10.45** The Bank Job (2008) **12.55** Only Yesterday (1991) **3.30** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
King of Texas, Channel 5, 3.15pm
An ageing cattle baron chooses to divide up his empire between his three daughters. His actions set in motion a deadly feud between the sisters that threatens to destroy the business the old man has worked his whole life to build. Western inspired by Shakespeare's King Lear, starring Patrick Stewart, Marcia Gay Harden and Lauren Holly. (2002)

TUESDAY
Surviving Summer, BBC1, 11.55pm
A troubled teenager who witnessed her father's suicide spends a summer living with her grandparents and working as a waitress. She falls in love with the restaurant's ambitious cook, but her grandparents do not approve of him, as he has a criminal past. Drama, starring Hilary Duff. (2009)

WEDNESDAY
Sub Zero, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A weapon of mass destruction is stolen from the US government and lost at the top of the world's second-highest mountain. A team of crack climbers is sent to disarm and retrieve the device before Russian terrorists get to it first – but the enemy may have already infiltrated their expedition. Action adventure, starring Costas Mandylor and Linden Ashby. (2005)

The Hitcher, Friday, ITV, 11.10pm

THURSDAY
NYC: Tornado Terror, Channel 5, 3.15pm
New York's deputy mayor receives a warning from his estranged meteorologist wife that the city is about to be hit by a massive tornado, but convincing the residents of the scale of the impending danger proves an uphill struggle. Disaster thriller, starring Nicole de Boer, Sebastian Spence, Colby Johannson and Jerry Wasserman. (2008)

FRIDAY
The Hitcher, ITV, 11.10pm
A couple offer a hitch-hiker a lift, only to discover that he is a cold-blooded killer. The pair manage to escape his clutches and continue on their journey, but it quickly becomes apparent that their former passenger is framing them for a series of gory roadside slayings. Horror remake, starring Sean Bean. (2007)

A trip down memory lane with some old favourites

The 1980s was a turbulent decade all over the world, but especially here in the UK, from riots and football hooliganism, to a royal wedding celebrated by the entire nation, and big hair accompanying shoulder pads.

It was also a period of massive change in the TV world.

Although it was the decade of the VCR, many people didn't make plans if there was a big TV show listed in their magazine that night.

And Channel 5 is dedicating some of this weekend to the 1980s and it's best (and worst) TV shows and films.

It all kicks-off at 9.00pm tonight with a visit to the Big Brother house, where the housemates will be taking part in all manner of 80s-themed challenges, which will probably involve a bit of fancy dress, role-playing and 80s-themed rewards and punishment.

Then nostalgic retrospective The 80s: The Best of Bad TV takes a look back at some of the so-bad-they-were good programmes we were watching during a decade that was marked by excess.

It was a golden age for sitcoms both in the UK and across the Pond.

Over here, Peckham comedy Only Fools and Horses, student digs sitcom The Young Ones, and historical romp Black Adder were pulling in the viewers, while in the States Robin Williams vehicle Mork & Mindy, Boston bar ratings winner Cheers, and the most watched television show in the United States in 1989, Roseanne, were all hits.

There were also a number a big, silly action adventures where the good guys always won, none more so than David Hasselhoff show Knight Rider, those Good Ol' Boys The Dukes of Hazzard and, of course, Hannibal, Face, Murdoch and BA, aka The A-Team.

Sci-fi and mystery also had a resurgence in the decade with lizard people soap opera V, influential drama The Twilight Zone, the time-hopping Quantum Leap, and Starship Enterprise reboot Star Trek: The Next Generation all boldly going where no shows had gone before.

However, the detective/police procedural drama was arguably the genre which has the largest resurgence boom, especially over the Atlantic.

Crockett and Tubbs were coolness personified in the visually stunning Miami Vice, while female buddy cop show Cagney & Lacey and Tom Selleck's breakthrough role as Magnum, P.I. were massive worldwide smashes.

Finally who can forget the undisputed king of all prime-time soaps, oil tycoon melodrama Dallas?

It is even said that the Queen Mother was among the 83 million people worldwide who tuned in to watch the episode, titled A House Divided, which become better known as Who Shot JR?

After that fun rundown on Saturday night, Sunday's scheduling sees hit films from the decade – The Land Before Time, The Princess Bride, Spies Like Us, Beetle Juice and Dirty Dancing all get an airing, before a further trip to the BB house and another chance to see the epic countdown show Greatest 80s Movies, narrated by Ronni Ancona.

The 80s: The Best of Bad TV, Saturday, Channel 5, 10pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Superfoods: The Real Story
Channel 4, 8.30pm
According to the old saying, you are what you eat. So, could we all eat smarter? Probably. And doing so may help prolong our lives. Every so often, scientists reveal something new about the food we consume, revealing the items that have previously unknown health benefits. Sadly, none of them ever seem to be burgers or chips. This new series, fronted by Kate Quilton, focuses on the so-called superfoods, and asks whether they really are the nutrition miracles we've been led to believe. She begins by investigating the idea that eating grapefruit can help fight fat, and whether kale is good for eyes. Kate also looks at sugar substitute xylitol, and finds out if it could be good for teeth, as has been claimed.

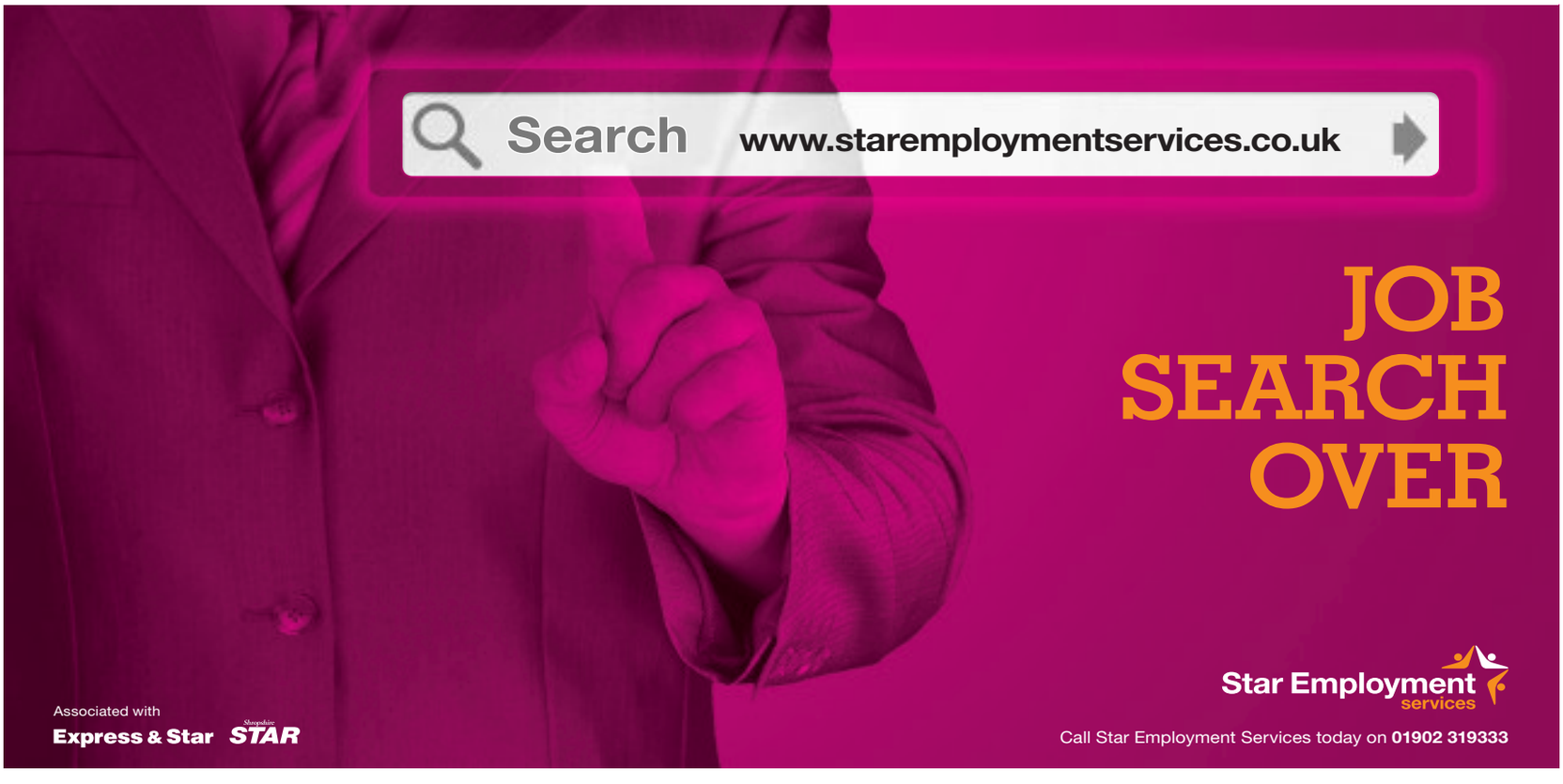
TUESDAY
The 7/7 Bombing: Survivors' Stories
ITV, 9pm
For those who witnessed the atrocity or were caught up in it themselves, it probably seems like a short time since four British-born suicide bombers launched an attack on London's transport system. More than 750 people were injured that day, and a further 52 killed during the deadliest attack on the capital since the infamous Blitz of the Second World War. However, it was 10 years ago next week, and as a result, our TV schedules are sure to be dominated by documentaries about the terrifying event soon. First off the mark is this programme, which hears from survivors, victims, their relatives and rescuers as they relate their often remarkable stories. Actor Mark Strong provides the narration.

WEDNESDAY
Long Lost Family
ITV, 9pm
Davina McCall enlists the aid of a specialist intermediary to help Elizabeth Wells and her daughter Janice track down Paul, the second-born child Elizabeth put up for adoption 50 years earlier when it became clear she would not be able to support both her children as a single mother. She also offers expert assistance to Tracey Collins, who discovered at the age of 17 that she has an older brother, Thomas, who her parents felt ill-prepared to raise when he was born, due to the fact that they lacked work and were unmarried. After suffering a stroke, Tracey's father had vowed to help her find his estranged son, but died before he was able to share crucial information about his location. Now, Tracey seeks guidance from Nicky Campbell in tracking Thomas down.

Long Lost Family, Wednesday, ITV, 9pm

THURSDAY
Britain Beneath Your Feet
BBC1, 8pm
According to Dallas Campbell we can only truly understand the familiar world around us by discovering the hidden wonders beneath our feet. In this two-part documentary, computer graphics are used to strip away the earth and lay bare this secret world of hidden rivers, mines, power stations, iconic buildings and amazing wildlife. Campbell finds out how the Shard of London – the tallest skyscraper in Western Europe – stays standing on soft clay, and reveals the genius underwater engineering that allowed the Forth Rail Bridge to be constructed in the 19th century. Along the way, the presenter also meets many of the people who help keep Britain running from underground, including the men who drive the largest tunnelling machines in the world, and those who dislodge 'fatbergs' that block the sewers beneath London.

FRIDAY
Conspiracy: The Lord Lucan Dossier
Channel 5, 8pm
The case of John Bingham, 7th Earl of Lucan, who vanished in November 1974, has baffled experts and captured the imagination of many for years. His disappearance coincided with the murder of his children's nanny Sandra Rivett, as well as an attack on his wife, Veronica. Lucan was never caught or tried for the crime, but in the four decades since he fled numerous sightings have been reported of him from around the world. Some people believe he escaped justice, while others think he too was later murdered. Other cases featured in this gossip-mongering but undoubtedly fascinating documentary involve the kidnapping and murder of aviator Charles Lindbergh's baby son in 1927 and that of US union leader Jimmy Hoffa, who went missing in 1975.

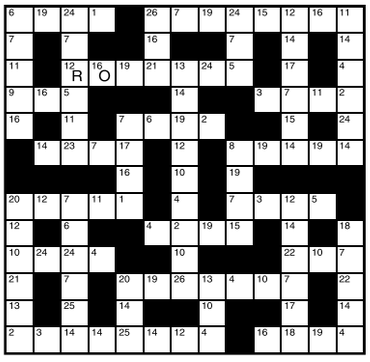


Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, June 25, 2015

BRAIN GYM No.331

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1	14
2	15
3	16 O
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12 R	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
X	Q	U	O	D	Y	C	M	B	S	W	P	G
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
K	H	V	F	T	J	Z	R	E	N	L	A	I

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

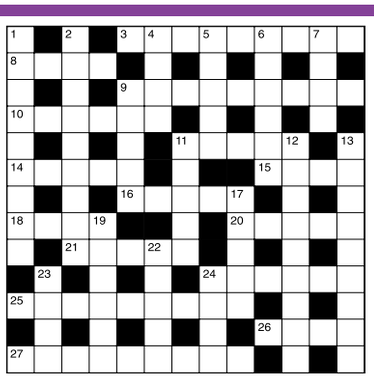
Cryptic Clues:

Across

3. He demonstrates against professional examiner (9)
8 & 21Ac. Inferior fish, we hear, for those who attract pity (4,5)
9. Friend has a place for a meal that's tasty (9)
10. Make an allusion about Eastern drug container (6)
11. In truth, a remarkable collection of females (5)
14. Sportsman who takes a shocking risk about the top of the Eiger! (5)
15. Not the kind of reception in which one is cold-shouldered? (4)
16. Disorganised danse in the Ardennes (5)
18. See 23 Down
20. The girl is one in love, maybe (5)
21. See 8 Across
24. Insult fifty within visual range (6)
25. Occupied a position, as it happened (4,5)
26. The sort of repairer to improve your understanding (4)
27. They are inclined to spoil a grand site (9)

Down

1. See 12 Down
2. Do cinemas confuse the wits? (9)
4. Foster will show a position at the back (4)
5. It is put up by an artist as fine headgear (5)
6. We will get involved with the same bird (3-3)
7. They are likely to slip from the creel sometimes (4)
9. Looks closely at those with a House of their own (5)
11. Doesn't reveal the skins (5)
12 & 1Dn. What's the blacksmith doing? Creating a disturbance (6,3,6,3)
13. It's seamen in disorder who will get pardons (9)
17. Old coin that is not common (5)
19. Cut off, but reached port (6)
22. I will shortly be in the French town (5)
23 & 18Ac. Heath to secure the boat and step ashore (8)
24. Commanding officer seen in the street may be a Highlander (4)



Quick Clues:

Across

3. Slept (9)
8. Noose (4)
9. Manufacture (9)
10. Source (6)
11. Abyss (5)
14. Wrong (5)
15. Rescue (4)
16. Shin-bone (5)
18. Quote (4)
20. Scope (5)
21. Give off (5)
24. Guide (6)
25. Clever (9)
26. Prepare for press (4)
27. Fruitfulness (9)

Down

1. Concession (9)
2. Probationer (9)
4. Thin (4)
5. Military tune (5)
6. Surplus (6)
7. Consumes (4)
9. Prime (5)
11. Wire (5)
12. Size (9)
13. Profane (9)
17. The Ram (5)
19. Look for (6)
22. Training (5)
23. Formerly (4)
24. Has to (4)

Sudoku

		2			9			
	7		3	5				4
4					6	1	5	9
		8	6					3
	4	5			7	2	1	
2				3		9		
9	6	4	2				8	
5				9	8			
			4			7		

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

7	9	1	8	6	3	4	5	2
6	3	4	1	5	2	9	7	8
8	5	2	9	7	4	1	3	6
9	6	7	3	8	5	2	1	4
5	1	8	4	2	7	6	9	3
4	2	3	6	9	1	5	8	7
2	8	9	5	3	6	7	4	1
3	4	6	7	1	9	8	2	5
1	7	5	2	4	8	3	6	9

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Fate; 3 Base-line; 8 Ride; 9 Suppress; 11 Isolated case; 13 Rising; 14 Parson; 17 Joint account; 20 Peasants; 21 Sten; 22 Disallow; 23 Here. Down: 1 Furriers; 2 Tedious; 4 Amused; 5 Expectancy; 6 Ideas; 7 Erse; 10 Cannonball; 12 Instance; 15 Scuttle; 16 Castro; 18 Opals; 19 Aped. QUICK - Across: 1 Duly; 3 Advanced; 8 Send; 9 Studious; 11 Introductory; 13 Escape; 14 Fought; 17 Regeneration; 20 Inedible; 21 Gala; 22 Detonate; 23 Lead. Down: 1 Despised; 2 Lunatic; 4 Detour; 5 Additional; 6 Choir; 7 Dusk; 10 Completion; 12 Standard; 15 Grimace; 16 Pellet; 18 Eject; 19 Wild.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. Who won the 1964 Nobel peace prize?
2. Which 'pop' artist do you associate with Campbell's soup cans?
3. On which river does Washington DC stand?
4. Which zodiac sign straddles December and January?
5. What were the christian names of H.G. Wells?
6. Who was the Roman god of war?
7. Which country's flag is a yellow cross on a blue background?
8. In which country was the schilling a monetary unit?
9. What is the collective noun used to describe a group of crows?
10. In which year did the Japanese attack a US fleet in Pearl Harbor?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Lemuel; 2 1959; 3 Photography; 4 Albania; 5 Ray Milland; 6 Alaska; 7 1642; 8 1920; 9 Argentina; 10 Walking pace.

Niner: SEAWORTHY

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

347 gives an animal,
5461 gives insects,
62398 gives another animal.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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Two nights are spent in the Mawamba Lodge in the heart of this exotic haven. The area is a ribbon of thick rainforest criss-crossed by canals and waterways, and home to land turtles, languid manatees, sloths, caimans and crocodiles.

Journey through the rainforest and across the lowlands to La Fortuna, and see the famous Arenal volcano that erupted spectacularly in 1968. The area is also famous for its hot springs and thermal baths – so take the opportunity to enjoy a visit to the Eco Termales springs.

Drive round the northern tip of the Tilarán cordillera on the stunning 'Highway to Heaven' to idyllic Monteverde set amongst lush forests.

Travel down to the central Pacific Coast, and spend three days in a luxury hotel, near to the stunning Manuel Antonio National Park, the perfect background for rest and relaxation.

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Mechanic retires after half century of service

A popular and loyal mechanic who completed 50 years' of service has retired from a West Midlands motors business.

The workshop at Wolverhampton Volkswagen, part of Trust Group UK, came to a standstill as colleagues saw Peter Tailor receive a presentation watch from Brand Manager Paul Cooper.

Trust Group directors along with Peter's wife of 43 years and two grown up sons joined in the celebrations.

Peter, 65 from Birstall in Leicestershire, said: "I've had the most amazing 50 years, and I wouldn't have changed any of it.

"Everyone at Wolverhampton Volkswagen is brilliant to work with, from colleagues in the workshop right up to the senior management. I have always been treated like part of the family. I'm really going to miss them all."

Brand Manager Paul Cooper said: "Pete is a great guy and very, very popular in the business.

"I hope we gave him a fitting send-off. One of Pete's former apprentices Dean Beddows - who is now our Service Manager – was also there, so his legacy lives on."

Pete is originally from Kenya and came to Wolverhampton with his family in 1965. After just nine months in school, but failing to settle, he decided to look for a job.

"My father wouldn't allow me to work at a factory, which is what I planned to do," said Pete. "But I used to tat about with cars back in Kenya, so that led me to get a job in the motor trade."

His long career began as a panel beater at Wolverhampton Motor Services, the site of the current Wolverhampton Volkswagen, earning one pound 11 shillings a week. Hard work and dedication paid off and he was offered an apprenticeship as a mechanic, attending Wulfrun College to complete his City & Guilds Parts I and II.

Still not quite 20 years old, Pete qualified as an MOT tester and continued making a name for himself as an honest and reliable member of staff. As changes to the business followed over the years, including a franchise change and new owners, Pete was able to carry with him his continued service. The Trust Group took over the business in March 2006.

Despite climbing the ladder to workshop foreman, Pete was always happiest as a mechanic, and that's the position he held at the end of his career.

And despite moving house to Leicester in 2008, Pete continued to work at the Wolverhampton dealership, staying with his mother – who still lives in the town – during the week.

"I've had a wonderful time," added Peter, "and made some great friends. The whole of the workshop gathered for my send off and one of the guys said 'the legend is gone'.

"But I'm really looking forward to spending lots of quality time with my wife Avantika and our two young grandsons."

Avantika added: "I can't wait to spend some time with him now he's retired. He has always worked so hard and been such a loyal staff member that it will be lovely to finally have him to myself."

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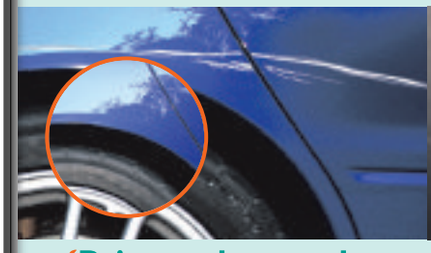

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The above fuel consumption figures are based on an EU test for comparative purposes only and may not reflect real driving results. *Models shown: Swift SZ4 4x4 Dualjet available at £14,199 (metallic paint £430). S-Cross SZ5 ALLGRIP CVT available at £22,949 (metallic paint £430). Jimny SZ4 available at £13,645 (metallic paint £430). Swift 4x4 Range: Swift 1.2 SZ3 5dr Petrol Manual available at £12,099 to Swift 1.2 SZ4 5dr Petrol Dualjet available at £14,199. SX4 S-Cross range: SX4 S-Cross 1.6 SZ3 Manual available at £13,999 to SX4 S-Cross 1.6 DDiS SZ5 ALLGRIP Manual available at £23,549. Jimny range: Jimny 1.3 SZ3 Petrol Manual available at £12,195 to Jimny 1.3 SZ4 Petrol Automatic available at £14,545. The features referred to in this advertisement and all specifications and equipment may vary depending on engine, transmission and model grade. All prices and specifications correct at time of going to print. On the road price valid from 1st April 2015 to 30th June 2015. For full details contact your local participating Suzuki Dealer.

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Aspray24 expansion plans with DAF trucks

By James Parker

Next day delivery is at the heart of the Aspray24 business where there is an operation delivering 24 hours a day across the UK. Based in Willenhall, they have 14 depots including Glasgow, Washington in the North East, Milton Keynes, Harlow, Eastleigh (Chandlers Ford), Avonmouth, near Bristol and Cardiff.

Aspray24 started in Bilston 31 years ago with four DAF trucks bought through Greenhous. The firm handles 30,000 items as part of 1,000 tonnes of freight moved daily. The business supports 770 staff and has a fleet deploying 300 to 350 vehicles per day, with 150 trailers.

Greenhous has just supplied Aspray24 with a further 30 DAF trucks which will form part of an expansion of its DAF fleet and also as part of routine replacement of older vehicles. It is vital the firm is seen by their customers using modern, high quality, reliable vehicles.

Aspray24 and Greenhous have a long-standing working relationship and, together with DAF, they have formed a development group to enable DAF to test modifications, new engines and driver assist systems in real life working conditions before they are rolled out on their new vehicles.

Privilege

Being trusted to be part of a DAF development programme is a major privilege for the two companies and one which is treated very seriously by all concerned.

Ian Barclay, operations director for Aspray24 explains: "With such a large fleet of DAF trucks we have to be mindful of reliability, fuel efficiency and technical advances that make driving a safer experience.

"The trust built between ourselves, Greenhous and DAF has come from many years of working closely together and it has helped to refine the product we use today.

"We were involved in the field tests for the new Euro 6 engines from the start and assist in providing constructive criticism and positive feedback directly to the DAF engineers so that they can react and adapt systems in real time, speeding up the process of development."

Rob Binnion, Greenhous retail truck sales manager, expanded on this saying: "Both of our companies are technically astute and test the DAF truck capabilities to their full extent on the road, and we understand the importance of providing accurate, clear guidance to the engineers.

"The DAF engineers from Holland visited us and it was obvious that they valued the professionalism we and Aspray24 showed in providing assistance in feedback meetings.

"A highly valued tripartite relationship between the three companies has produced excellent benefits for each of us."

An example of where the development group have progressed the DAF truck offer is Aspray24 providing weekly feedback on fuel data from their test vehicles. DAF engineers responded putting forward solutions to achieve optional fuel use efficiency or fault diagnosis for the Greenhous DAF technicians to implement.

Technical

Safety modifications which are now fitted as standard on DAF trucks were tested with Greenhous and Aspray24 first. These include lane departure warning, emergency braking and adaptive cruise control.

The new trucks which Apray24 operate benefit from the latest technological adaptations meaning that the company is up to date with European directives immediately they are implemented.

Ian Barclay reflects that the DAF servicing infrastructure, including that offered by Greenhous, is excellent and with a national operation the company requires a high quality, 24 hour service provision.

"We will use our new 30 DAF's strategically across the country, replacing higher mileage vehicles that work the long haul routes, for example to Scotland and return overnight", said Ian.

"Our London depots require low emission vehicles and we are looking at developing the "silent vehicle" technology with Greenhous and DAF for use in inner city and town areas."

The new acquisitions include 10 DAF FALF150 7.5T and 10 DAF FALF180 12T Daycab EURO 6 chassis with Cartwright curtain side bodies along with 10 DAF FTCF370 DAYCAB 4X2 EURO 6 tractor units with safety features.

Pictured above: Left, the range of DAF trucks. Right: Ian Barclay is pictured holding a presentation award from DAF in Eindhoven, Holland of a DAF CF truck and trailer in recognition of the successful partnership on the development programme.

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- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Visits to Brockhole Gardens, Holehird Gardens and Grasmere
- Entrance to Windy Hall Gardens
- Cruise on Coniston on Steam Yacht Gondola
- Entrance to Brantwood House and gardens
- Entrance to the gardens at Levens Hall
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Poldark's Cornwall

Four days departing October 2

PRICE FROM £259

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Visit to the Poldark mine for a tour
- Visit to the Smugglers Museum
- Coach journey along the Cornish coast
- Visits to Padstow, Charlestown and Mullion
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

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In Search of the Northern Lights

Evening excursion
departing November 9, Feb 2 and 3, 2016

PRICE FROM £199.95

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- Light refreshments on board
- Services of the astronomers on board
- Services of a tour manager

Please note the Northern Lights are a natural phenomenon which cannot be guaranteed to appear during the flight, although they have been visible on many previous outings

Organised by Omega Holidays (ATOL 6081)

London Theatre by coach

Two days selected weekend departure dates

PRICE FROM £139.95

London is the natural home of theatre and the musical is king in the capital's world-famous West End. British musicals that prove a runaway success here often go on to triumph on Broadway and around the globe.

The winning combination of engaging writing, captivating stage design and commanding performance has enabled London theatres to achieve box office smashes time and time again. And it's the songs that make people return to the capital a number of times and some of the most well-known tunes have become part of the national canvas.

There are two options travelling by coach from which to choose, Saturday Night Theatre or a Theatre Weekend with Dinner.

The Saturday Night Theatre break, from £139.95, includes a ticket for the evening show, whereas the Theatre Weekend with Dinner option starts from £149.95 and includes an evening meal following the matinee performance.

Both trips include return coach travel, a choice of theatre ticket from an extensive list of shows, overnight bed and breakfast accommodation in an outer-London four-star hotel, along with some free time in the capital for shopping or sightseeing.

Pick-ups offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

**The from price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure/web page for details.*

Single room supplements apply.

Organised by Omega Events (ABTA Y590X)

York, Harrogate and the Yorkshire Dales

Pick of the week

Four days departing October 16

PRICE FROM £209

Yorkshire is the largest county in England and has something to offer everyone, from expansive moors and national parks to floral market towns and thriving cities.

A full day is spent in York where there are a whole host of attractions to enjoy. These include Yorkminster – the largest medieval Gothic cathedral in Northern Europe, and which towers over the city. There is also Barley Hall; Cliffords Tower and Fairfax House, to name but a few.

For panoramic views of the area climb the city walls, and for the shoppers there is plenty to choose from as York boats over 2,000 shops, with The Shambles, Petergate and Stonegate amongst the most popular.

During the scenic coach tour of the Yorkshire Dales two visits are made. The first is to Grassington, a lovely village with a cobbled square and beautiful setting above the river Wharfe. The second is to Pateley Bridge, which has been the inspiration for many artists, writers and television producers, due to its stunning location in the heart of Nidderdale.

Visits are also made to Skipton, home to one of the most complete medieval castles in England (entrance payable locally); Harrogate, which is well known for its landscaped gardens and architecture, plus Haworth, a quaint Yorkshire village made up of cobbled streets and alleyways.

INFO

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Full day in York
- Scenic coach tour of the Yorkshire Dales stopping at Grassington and Pateley Bridge
- Visits to Skipton, Harrogate and Haworth
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

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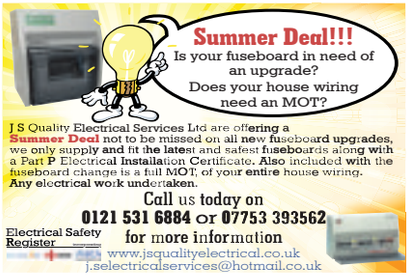

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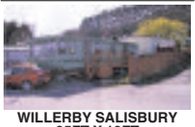

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TWO SEATER SOFA and swivel chair, footstool, only 5 weeks old, leather/fabric, beige/brown cost £1499, sell £750. 01902 681324.

2 RISER RECLINERS
Very good condition, Sherbourne make, large size, dual motor. 2 years old, storage 1 year. 1st very good brown leather, 2nd terracotta fabric. Worth £600 each, sell each
£500 ono. 01902 783939.

household appliances

LEISURE RANGEMASTER 110 for sale, excellent condition. £450 to include cooker in blue and rangemaster hood. 07890 614711.

in your garden

HANGING BASKETS, grow bags and tubs. Reduced prices. W.H. Brown. 01902 762500.

TEAK GARDEN FURNITURE
5ft diameter table, 3 curved benches, complete with seat pads, cushions, place mats.
£450 ono.
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A BEST CASH PRICE

FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS
Any gauge or age
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thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com

AIR RIFLES, ANTIQUE GUNS, taxidermy- birds, fish, mammals etc. All collections wanted 07968 624202

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

t.v. / home entertainment

service

AERIAL & TV SPECIALISTS
Free Estimates on any TV Repairs, Plasma, LCD, 3D, LED, Projection.
All areas covered 8 till late. 7 days.
Digital aerials, Sky installation.
Wall mounts & TV setups.
07850 330251

specialists at your service

aerials

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1 aerial into 2 rooms £90
1 aerial into 4 rooms £130
Work Guaranteed
Same Day Service
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Supplied and Fitted £195
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All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

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Super 6
6 Child Safe Verticals Fitted from only £169
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www.ab-blinds.co.uk

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carpet & upholstery cleaning

A CLASS CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING
OAP discount. Recession Prices.
Unbeatable Value: Rooms cleaned from £10
Call Paul 07870 341089

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UPVC BACK DOORS from £299, front doors from £389 fitted. Windows/Fascia's, 01922 442720.

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electrical services

STEVE JONES ELECTRICAL Rewires/sockets/fuse boards etc. All domestic and commercial work. 07786 858977/01902 846167.

fencing

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SPECIAL OFFER
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fitted bedrooms/kitche

Joinery Kitchens Sale
Up to 60% Off kitchen units, Buy direct from the manufacturer. Visit our showrooms in Brierley Hill, Manchester or Leeds.
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For all your Patio's, Turfing, Decking, treework and Root grinding...
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GARDENS TIDIED from £5 per garden. 25 years experience. Call 01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

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Lawns cut, Borders, Garden clearances
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A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. **07852 172641 / 07710 360327**

ABSOLUTELY ANYTHING CLEARED
FULL OR PART GARGAES/ SHEDS, RUBBISH REMOVED
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LOVE 2 WALLPAPER
Reliable & Friendly, Professional
Female Painter and Decorator
Wallpaper is my speciality, competitive prices.
For the Perfect Finish with minimum hassle.
Plastering & Coving Work Undertaken
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Local
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Full or Part loads
Call Don:
07749 941319

A1 KINGSWINFORD REMOVALS & HOUSE CLEARANCES
Single items,
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Recession rates, FREE QUOTES
We take the stress away
40 years experience
07966 281957

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CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN, Removals, clearances. Items large or small. Call: 01902 741546 or 07899 635852.

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QUICK RESPONSE RENDERING professional, reliable service. Call Stuart anytime, 01902 324727.

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BIG JOHN MOVES RUBBISH! No Skips, we load, fast friendly service, 25 Lister Rd, Dudley DY2 8JR, Est 35 years, 01384 232359.

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CENTRAL WINDOWS Ltd windows, doors, replacement units 01785 472021 centralwindowsltd .co.uk

4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

pets corner

GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS
All neutered, innoculated and chipped.
Call Greyhound Trust 01922 412212 or www.rgtwolverhampton.co.uk

BLACK LABRADOR PUPPIES Male & Female available, KC reg, inoculated, Drakeshead FTW Sire, excellent working Dam, £550/£600. Call 07802 346537 Coven.

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TWO SHIH TZU cross Bichon puppies, paper trained, wormed, £250. 01902 827945 or 07572 087567.

WANTED. Aviary birds for large private aviary. Also pigeons and poultry for beginner and parrot for house pet. 07970 485491.

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

BORDER COLLIES

BILLIE 9year old black and white, very handsome, very gentle lovely temperament.

FLOSSY 7month old pretty black and white Border Collie

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BORDER COLLIE X Whippets x 2

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KIND HOMES NEEDED

TESSA
small curly coated terrier cross little girl, super temperament, two years old.

TJ
small terrier curly coated little boy, two years old, super temperment.

Sorry no all day workers or small children.

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vets

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Every day our customers get a great response from Classified Advertising.

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5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

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7 Jobs

courses

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STOKE ON TRENT 4-5 JULY
TELFORD 8-9 JULY
TAMWORTH 1-2 AUGUST
BIRMINGHAM 3-4 AUGUST
DROITWICH 8-9 AUGUST

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MINIBUS (D1)
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INITIAL CPC TRAINING & ADR
CPC Periodic Training for PCV & LGV from 7hr blocks - Full 35hrs
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drivers

STOURBRIDGE HAULAGE COMPANY
require a
CLASS 1 HGV/DRAW BAR DRIVER
HIAB Crane Licence an advantage but training will be given to the correct applicant.
Some nights out and occasional Saturdays.
Excellent rates of pay and conditions - £12.50ph.
Immediate start.
Contact
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8 Motoring

cars over £1500

BMW 318Ci CONVERTIBLE 52 reg, MoT Apr, 102,000 miles, fsh, excellent condition, inspection welcome £2,195 ono. 07583 019478.

FORD FIESTA Zetec, 1.25, 2008, 2 lady family owners, 58,000 miles, MoT till Feb 2016, good condition £2,500. 01902 743352.

FORD FOCUS Climate, 1.6, 56 reg, PAS, EW, CL, AC, CD, alloys, heated front screen, FSH, excellent condition, £2,450. 01384 350369.

JAGUAR S TYPE 2.7 DIESEL 2004, automatic, SE spec, excellent condition, surprisingly economical.
Any inspection welcome.
£2,995. o.n.o.
07973 829909.

full time - general

On-Site Test Engineer
(Lifting Equipment)
Permanent Position - Bromsgrove

We are an established lifting equipment company located in the heart of the Midlands looking to continue our expansion of our site services division. As a result, an On-Site Test Engineer is required as soon as possible to join our site- services team.

We require an enthusiastic and self-motivated individual who ideally has a sound knowledge of hydraulic, pneumatic and mechanical lifting equipment and has good communication skills to liaise with customers on-site.

The role of On-Site Test Engineer offers a great deal of diversity working for a fast growing well established business.

As a company who invests in their employees, this is an opportunity to join a company who will train you both in house and externally before you then go out and take a more autonomous role at customer sites.

This role will involve the On-Site inspection LOLER & PUWER, proof load testing, service and On site minor repair of hydraulic, pneumatic, mechanical and powered equipment.

You will be travelling throughout the UK and have a full UK driving license.

This role will require you to stay away from home as and when required.

If you are an ambitious individual who is looking to progress in an expanding company, please send your CV to: Sarah Worley sarah@worlifts.co.uk

RIDGEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
A King Edward's Stourbridge Academy
Park Road West, Wollaston, Stourbridge, West Midlands, DY8 3NQ
Headteacher Mr C Nutting B.Sc
Tel : 01384 818445
Email : replies@ridgewood.dudley.sch.uk
Website: www.ridgewood.dudley.sch.uk

COVER SUPERVISOR
Salary: Grade 5 Pt 18
£11,108 (actual salary)
27 hours per week, term time only (39 weeks)

This is an exciting opportunity for someone with the necessary skills and enthusiasm to provide short term cover supervision of lessons as required.

ASSERTIVE MENTOR
Salary: Grade 5 Pt 18
£13,988 (actual salary)
34 hours per week, term time only (39 weeks)
Temporary contract - (PP6 funding)

The successful candidate will join a small team who work with a limited degree of autonomy to provide support and guidance to students to improve academic standards and achievement and to encourage positive attitudes and participation.

Ridgewood High School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Informal visits to the school are welcome; please contact reception in the first instance.

Application forms/job descriptions are available from the school or the school's website www.ridgewood.dudley.sch.uk

Closing date for applications is 09.00 am on Monday 29th June 2015

Interviews will be held during the week commencing 6 July 2015.

Only successful candidates will be contacted.

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We have a package to suit every budget.
Packages start from as little as
£19.50 for 6 nights
Plus
6 nights free if you do not sell.
CALL
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LEXUS 450 HYBRID
56 06, 1 previous owner, new shape, fully serviced, every extra, had major service, excellent throughout, cost £38,000 new
£8,500 ono.
01902 761298/07490 087526.

MERCEDES C270 CDI ELEGANCE
Auto 2002, full leather, electric heated front seats, alloys, ABS, EW, AC, CL, CD, alarm, headlamp wash, front/rear parking sensors, MoT April 2016.
Very Clean Car £2,000
07724 629285

MERCEDES ESTATE C32 AMG V6 3.2 LITRE
2004, rare car, silver, immaculate condition, supercharged, auto, fully loaded, towbar, Bose sound, full MoT, just serviced.
£5,650.
01384 233255 (after 6pm).

PEUGEOT 107, 55, red, 1 litre 10 months MoT, c/l, CD player. Excellent condition. £20 tax. £1,895 ono. Telephone 07831 232257.

PORCH BOXSTER 986
2.7, Reg April 2002, manual, black leather interior, bose sound system, artic silver metallic, under 75,000 miles, excellent condition.
£6,500.
07762 710966.

SEAT TOLEDO SPORT TDi
2005, diesel, manual, 6 speed, black, 5 door, 60k miles, A/C, electrics, stereo, MoT June 2016.
£2,000
07593 170 305.

TOYOTA RAV 4 54 reg, 3-dr, black, with history, excellent value, £2,995. 01562 710289.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2SXi
3 door, 2012, 13,000 miles, white colour coded bumpers and spoiler, alloys, Vauxhall fsh, Vauxhall Warranty till October, e/w, e/m, c/l, lady owner, economical, excellent throughout. **£5,995 ono.**
07850 064019 /
01902 650037.

VAUXHALL TIGRA 1,8 EXCLUSIVE
2006, silver, heated leather seats, 45,000 miles, lady owner, immaculate.
£2,995.
01902 493846. 07833 053165.

VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 2.0 SDI MK5
2005, 80,700 miles, silver, abs, e/w, e/m, fsh, full MoT, 5 door, alloy wheels, immobiliser, cambelt changed, pas.
£3,800 ono.
07733 243150.

cars under £1500

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that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

CITROEN DISPATCH. 07 reg, 1900 Diesel, 6 mths MoT, New tyres/clutch. Fully alarmed, locking nuts. £1,750 ono. Dudley 07923 191378.

CITROEN PICASSO 52 plate, long MoT, some service history, good condition, £1,150. o.n.o. 01902 895796.

CITROEN PICASSO 1.6, 2005, long MoT, a/c, e/w, pas, great practical family car, £1,150 ono.
Telephone 07817 029177.

CITROEN PICASSO SX, February 2003, full MoT, drives superb, 75,000 miles, light blue, £795.
07773 996403.

CROWN MOTORS Closing down clearance trade sale. Lots of bargains. 07585 664389. WV14 8AA.

FORD KA, 04, red, 66k, long MoT, alloy wheels, stereo. Great condition, cheap to run. £895 ono.
07754 557861.

FORD FOCUS 1.6 Zetec S, 1999, MoT, black, 60k, excellent condition, new clutch, £795 ono.
07791 113080.

FORD FUSION 1.6 petrol, 05 reg, 5dr, full MoT, AC, EW, CL, £895.
07851 213316.

FORD KA 1.3, 38k miles, MoT, 02 reg, burgundy red, CD, excellent clean condition throughout, drives perfectly, £700 ono. 01902 564264.

LANDROVER FREELANDER SE 2001, blue, 76k, MoT, full leather, heated seats, AC, excellent condition. £1,395 o.n.o. 07898 196368.

MERCEDES C220 CDi Classic automatic Estate, 2000, good condition, MoT, £850.
01384 352668 or 07811 176564.

PEUGEOT 206 1.4. (05), silver, 5dr, long MoT, A/C, PAS, CD player £30 year Tax. Excellent condition. £1,150. o.n.o. 07429 999105.

PEUGEOT 206 CONVERTIBLE 02, blue, FSH, long MoT, immaculate condition. £975. 01384 440258.

PEUGEOT 206 HDi diesel, superb reliable, full MoT, service history, real eye catcher, £1,050.
07889 434584.

PEUGEOT 406 GTX ESTATE, W reg, 11 months MoT, blue, excellent runner, smart car. Bargain. £950. 01902 341611.

RENAULT CLIO 1150CC 2004, 9 months MoT, petrol, 66k, immaculate, slight damage on door, red, 3dr. £795 ono. 07733 063247.

RENAULT MEGANE 1.5TDI
2006, 96,000 miles, black, electric windows/mirrors, air con, MoT, diesel, sunroof, alloys, CD, cheap road tax!
£1,399 ono.
07784 541129.

STREET KA 55 plate, 1.6, 68,000 miles, SH, MoT March 2016, very good condition, £999.
Wton 07910 514697.

TOYOTA RAV4 2.0 1995, red, 7 months MoT, 73k miles, new cat and front discs and pads, good tyres £495 ono. 01902 682269.

VAUXHALL CORSA 2003, 1.2SXi, 3dr, peppermint green, 75,000 miles, full MoT, good reliable clean car, £950. Call 01922 404319.

VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.8 CLUB 2003, petrol / gas, black, EW, Air con, long MoT, CL, radio/CD. £1,460 ono. 01384 401209.

VW GOLF, 2003, 91,840 miles, blue, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, air con, alarm, MoT, one owner, £1,499 ono. 07773 087011.

classic cars

CLASSIC CARS WANTED
Private cash buyer
Instant cash settlement.
Any age, any condition.
Call Market Drayton.
01630 652993.

JAGUAR XJS 5.3 V12 2dr, Auto, 1986, dolphin blue, antelope interior, 89,000 miles. £4,750.
01902 752590.

TRIUMPH HERALD CONVERTIBLE
1971, 13-60, excellent chassis and mechanics, for restoration.New wings and floor panel to fit.
Sensible offers.
Telephone 01902 762591.

commercial vehicles

MERCEDES VITO 1900 DIESEL. (03 plate). Perfect working order. £1,600. o.n.o. 01384 457219 .

VAUXHALL COMBO vans, 03 and 04, diesel, MoT, excellent condition, £950/£1,150. 07801 746853.

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Homer's
Mini, Clio, Corsa, Fiesta, Punto, 207, KA, Fiat 500, Yaris.
10 Hours £89! Five Hours £50!
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MALE & FEMALE INSTRUCTORS
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01562 870050 / 01384 234954
01543 660020 / 0121 564 0090
01902 580065
www.homersdrivingschool.co.uk

motorbikes

KAWASAKI ZR750 F1. 1999. Good condition. 23k miles, long MoT. New chain-sprokets-pads. £1,750. Wolverhampton: 07754 121452.

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

MCB
TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS
Tel: 01902 408176
1000's of parts available at all times
MONMORE RD. WV1 2TZ

1st CHOICE
TOP PRICE PAID 4 SCRAP CARS! VANS! CAMPERS! MOT FAILURES! ANYTHING CONSIDERED, FREE COLLECTION WITHIN THE HOUR! 7 DAYS
01902 562853
07895 346811- 24 hrs

A B SPARES
Pays More
All Scrap Cars & Vans Wanted
Anything Considered
Free Collection
Scrap It Legally COD. Given Instant Payment.
01902 493110 / 0121 525 5813 daytime
01902 659775 evenings

A BETTER PRICE
for scrap or damaged cars and commercials. Spares for sale.
NINE LOCKS VEHICLE DISMANTLERS LTD
Brierley Hill 01384 76566 or 70553. Evenings 75397. DY5 3JZ.

vehicles wanted

alan reed cars
Used cars wanted for cash
Top prices paid. HP settled.
Buyer could call.
01562 711083 / 07831 245313

CLASSIC CAR or motorcycle wanted, private buyer. 01902 829472 / 07928 721487.

spares & accessories

clutches / brakes / gearboxes

A CLUTCH CHANGE MOBILE
30 yrs experience
ALL AREAS COVERED
Call Bob
01384 251328 or
07972 169554 anytime
For Example:
Citroen C1, C2, C3
Hyundai 110
Toyota Yaris
Clios & Micras
Ring for quotes on others!

mobile mechanics

MOBILE MECHANICS Service & repairs. Headgasket, clutches and cambelts. 07747 848469.

mot's

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PENN RD, W'TON, WV4 5TT
01902 335335

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CENTRE BASE REPAIRS & MOBILE REPAIR SERVICE
• Alloy Wheel Repair
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MINI COOPER 5, 17ins alloy wheels with tyres, good condition £550. Mini space saver wheel 15ins, new £50. 01902 737671.

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to
Marie Hogg on
01902 713146
or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

JENNIFER NELLIE WHILE (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 9 Dorset Road Stourbridge West Midlands, who died on 17/03/2015, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 28/08/2015, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
QUALITYSOLICITORS TALBOTS
63 Market Street Stourbridge
West Midlands DY8 1AQ T444240

MAVIS MEAKIN (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 65 Bagley Street Lye Stourbridge DY9 7AR, who died on 31/03/2015, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 04/09/2015, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
QUALITYSOLICITORS TALBOTS
63 Market Street Stourbridge
West Midlands DY8 1AQ T444711

10 Personals

personal

ATTRACTIVE MALE 36
If you are looking for a genuine, honest, caring male who is fun to be around, then look no further!
I enjoy bowling, cinema, meals out, holidays etc and would like to meet a like minded lady aged 28 to 45 years for friendship hopefully leading to relationship.
Photo appreciated (returned).
Box Number P19882 ,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

CARING 64 YEAR OLD LADY
Would love to meet a caring, reliable, honest gent, 60-70 for friendship, maybe more.
I enjoy visiting country pubs, meals out and in, music and holidays home and aboard.
If interested drop me a line.
Box Number P19886,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

GENTLEMAN 60
Slim, single, very good sense of humour, caring nature, no ties, like walks, sport, meals out, nights in and out, light smoker, WLTM slim lady similar age for hopefully long term relationship for sharing life and being there for each other.
Genuine replies only please.
Box Number P19885 ,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

TRYING TO START AGAIN
Gornal Wood Man, 58, GSOH, own home and car, non-smoker, young at heart, enjoys cosy nights, walks, old pubs, meals in and out, visiting interesting places and music.
WLTM local female, loving, trustworthy, kind, slimmish build for friendship-relationship and see where it leads.
Would like a photo please, (returned).
Write to: Box No P19884,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

sports clubs

APR FC.
Current Division 2, Walsall League.
Do you love football?
We are moving up to U13's September and are looking to strengthen our team.
If you are interested in joining a fantastic friendly team, then give manager
Rob Palmier a call.
07914 609709.

FC PERTON
FA Charter Standard Club.
Wednesfield based.
U11 Players required.
Also U13's Goalkeeper.
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Greaves looks for quick return

NATHAN Greaves is targeting a quick return to racing despite breaking his right tibia and fibula last weekend.

The 17-year-old came through a successful operation in Carlisle on Monday and Greaves is now focusing on getting back to full fitness within the next few months.

Greaves said: "The operation went well and the doctors are happy with how it went.

"They cut underneath my knee and put a metal rod down my leg. They then cut around my ankle and fixed the metal rod with screws so it is quite uncomfortable and it is causing me a fair bit of pain but I'll live!

"I've got to keep a pot on for four to six weeks and then I should be ok to start working the muscles with physiotherapy and other treatments. But as soon as that pot is off, I'll be doing as much as they'll allow and as much as I can to get me back to normal fitness as quickly as possible.

"Some people have been saying to sit the rest of the season out now but I just want to be back on a bike as soon as I can and I'm aiming to make my comeback in the middle of August.

"I've been quite fortunate during my racing career so far because I've never really had a proper serious injury until now in the eleven years I've been riding a speedway bike. Unfortunately it's happened just as I was starting to hit form again which makes it more frustrating than anything.

"Hopefully the Cradley boys can carry on their good run and keep their place at the top of the table. I'd love to be back in the team for the last few league matches and all of the Gold Cup meetings too. Hopefully, I'll also have had enough meetings under my belt to take part in the National League Pairs in September.

"I have to say a big thanks to everybody at Workington for their help and support and of course the Cradley fans who have sent me so many messages!

"It's quite surprising really; you don't realise how many people care and support you."

Swimmers left trailing in tough competition

Mercian Summer League Round 2 Leamington Spa

HALESOWEN swimmers travelled to Leamington Spa to compete in the second round of the Mercian Summer League.

The draw promised tough competition where they found themselves up against the home team, Rugby, Redditch, Wombourne and Warley, and that is exactly what faced Halesowen right from the first event.

By the halfway mark it as clear that Halesowen were in the lower half of the points, with Leamington Spa and Rugby surging ahead and Halesowen forced to play catch-up.

Despite some battling performances from the Halesowen swimmers, the team were unable to improve further by the end of the gala and had to settle for finishing fifth overall.

First places were hard to come by throughout the competition and it was some consolation that the boys did manage a few.

The only individual event winners on the night were Jacob Bailey in the boys age 10 and under 50m backstroke and Jakob Baker in the boys 14 and under 100m breaststroke.

Relay event winners were Sam Bradley-Wood, George Davies, Daniel Hill and Tristan Bland in the open medley and they also triumphed in the open freestyle relay when joined by Tom Parker.

Final point scores for the meeting were Leamington Spa 244, Rugby 219, Redditch 167, Wombourne 157, Halesowen 135, Warley Wasps 118.

Nigel determined to compete in US

NIGEL Gaskin refuses to give up on his dreams as he aims to compete for Great Britain in the Chicago Aquathon World Championships in September.

The Stourbridge-based triathlete, aged 37, is off to Cologne at the end of the month for the European Championships, hoping that he can qualify for the top event in the States.

It would not be his only recent success. Halesowen-born Gaskin also qualified from the recent Half Iron Man event in Staffordshire – his first event of that nature – and he qualified from his age group for the world finals in Zell am See-Kaprun, Austria.

The event consisted of a 1.2-mile swim, a 13.2-mile half-marathon and a 56-mile bike ride.

He said: "I'm very good in the swimming section because my background was in swimming. I was close to qualifying for the Commonwealth Games in 1998 but I missed out.

Swimming

"Then it was a case of putting swimming to the side, getting a job (he works as a policeman) and focusing on that.

"But I've got back into it and in the last three or four years I moved over to the triathlon. Which has been a blessing.

"Moving from pool swimming to open water swimming was a big challenge but I've adapted and my swimming advantage usually serves me well.

"I enjoy the running and even at my age feel like I'm in good shape. My competitive streak helps. You never lose that.

"But the money situation does get in the way, particularly with the bike. I have the most basic of models and it's not an excuse. It's just the way things have gone."

Gaskin is raising money to aid his ambitions and revealed how difficult the big competitions are.

"I'm trying to compete as often as I can at that level. It's not at the elite level of triathlon. It works at age ranges. I'm in the 35-39 group," he said.

"I'm good enough to compete well and achieve good positions.I've competed at GB level at the Police and Fire games that are held throughout the forces." Those competitions have been great. I've been fortunate to achieve a lot there.

"I always dreamed of the Olympics when I was a kid, unfortunately I never had the backing through funding. I really think I could've got there.

"If I can come away with a medal or a trophy from Germany having qualified for the worlds then that'll be brilliant and help my case in getting the support. It may have to be that I turn the World Championships in Chicago down if I don't get the backing, sadly.

"The Iron Man competitions are new. I didn't really know what to expect but I thoroughly enjoyed it.

"The swim helped. I was second-fastest of my age. I got a fantastic advantage and it took the eventual winners 24 miles to catch me on the bike! I finished in 16th with 2 hours 50 minutes, 10 minutes or so behind the top lads. To qualify for a world final in my first attempt at the event was great."

Triathlete Nigel Gaskin, of Stourbridge, at Crystal Leisure Centre hopes to compete in the US

League is looking to expand for new season

BOSSES at the Dudley & Cradley Heath Football League wants players to sign up for next season.

The league, which started in 1910, has produced professional players including an international, and can boast one of the country's oldest cup competitions.

At its peak the league had 118 teams playing across 10 division but membership has fallen with only two divisions – 16 teams in total – playing last season.

Officials are keen to drive numbers up again and are charging no registration fees ahead of the new campaign.

Chairman Carl Dakin said: "It is a good place to play football, we just need more teams.

"The competition has been going for many years and we have got the Dudley Guest Hospital Cup, which we also play for, that started in 1885. We want teams to be a part of that history, and to add to that."

The league was formed as the Cradley Heath & District Amateur Football League and can count the late Bolton Wanderers and England inside forward Raymond Westwood among its former players.

Westwood, from Kingswinford, played more than 300 games for the Trotters between 1928-1947 and was capped six time times by England between 1934-1936.

More recently, former Hednesford, Kidderminster and Macclesfield striker Matthew Barnes-Homer, from Dudley, also graduated from the league to play Conference football.

For further details, or to register a team, call Carl Dakin on 07919 107774 or secretary Bryan Sutton on 01384 295 651.

Villa keeping Stoke's N'Zoni on their radar

VILLA are keeping tabs on the availability of Stoke City midfielder Steven N'Zonzi.

The 26-year-old Frenchman enjoyed another eye-catching season as the Potters secured their highest-ever Premier League points tally.

Last week Mark Hughes' side turned down a 'derisory' £3million bid from Spanish club Sevilla - but it is believed that Tim Sherwood's Villa, along with Albion and West Ham may be more willing to meet Stoke's £6million valuation for the box-to-box tough-tackling midfielder.

The ex-Blackburn Rovers man is entering the final year of his contract at Britannia Stadium, with the Potters still optimistic they can tie down the Players' Player and Supporters' Player of the Season.

Albion want £30m to hand over Berahino

ALBION have reportedly slapped a £30m price tag on striker Saido Berahino.

The England Under-21 ace is again being linked with a move away from The Hawthorns this summer after netting 20 times for the Baggies last season.

Newcastle United, Tottenham, Arsenal, Manchester City and Chelsea have all been mentioned as possible contenders for the 21-year-old's signature.

But the forward, who has yet to agree a new deal, still has two years to run on his current contract. It means that any side wishing to lure him away would have to pay big money, with £30m understood to be the figure required.

Such a sum would appear to rule out Newcastle out of the running.

Sport

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Hales look to improve play form

HALESOWEN look to find some much needed form this Saturday when they go to Coventry and North Warwickshire.

Faisal Shahid's side were below their best once again at the weekend.

The start at Bridgnorth was delayed by two hours after overnight and morning rain and saw the match reduced to 38 overs per side.

Importantly Shahid won the toss and had no hesitation inviting Bridgnorth to bat first on a worn strip that looked likely to take spin.

Opening pair Karl Quiney and skipper James Ralph had out on 30 for the opening wicket before Shahid struck to have Quiney (15) caught behind by Wes Griffiths.

An early bowling change at the opposite end saw Dan Jeavons strike to remove new batsman Ryan Lockley for 5 to be quickly followed by Ralph (19) to leave the hosts reeling at 42-3.

Solid contributions, however, from the league leaders middle order of S. Gregory (53), Exall (20) and Weston (35) boosted the Bridgnorth score but the returning Rhodes claimed three late wickets to restrict the total to 179-9 from their allotted 38 overs when they had looked looked like posting a target around 200.

Halesowen got off to the worst possible start when Zain Shahid, surprisingly promoted to open the innings, fell in only the third over to opening bowler Dale Quiney.

As so often seen in recent weeks Halesowen wickets continued to fall to a series of rash shots and both Stebbings (18) and Gabriel (7) were dismissed playing expansively. That said at 74-4 Halesowen were still well in the huntBot, however, were to fall to spinner Whitney in quick succession and leave Halesowen with their backs against the wall at 84-6.

Speedway spat sees Hancock accuse Pedersen

LEGENDARY Cradley Heathens star and current world champion Greg Hancock has accused former Wolves ace Nicki Pedersen of doing 'dangerous things' after the pair were involved in a stunning on-track fracas.

The American is known as one of the sport's nicest characters but saw red after he and Pedersen were involved in a collision in the final heat of a meet in Sweden on Tuesday night.

Hancock, riding for Piraterna Pirates, appeared to have his front wheel taken away by his rival.

The enraged 45-year-old ran across the track to confront Pedersen, knocking the Dane off his bike with a flying clothesline. Team-mates and club officials then pulled the pair apart, with video footage of the incident going viral .

Hancock, a three-time world champion who rode for the Heathens between 1989 and 1996, later said: "I was p***** off at that moment.

"It's not the first time Pedersen's done dangerous things on the track."

Pedersen, said: "I am very surprised at his reaction."

Heathens team up for Golden Hammer

Speedway

CRADLEY Heathens will once again team up with Dudley Stroke Association in staging the showpiece individual event of the year.

A top class field is coming together for the F.A.S.T Golden Hammer at Perry Barr on Wednesday, August 12 – including the star riders from Heathens, Birmingham and Coventry.

And there's a place for new National League sensation Bradley Wilson-Dean, the Eastbourne man who has already alerted interest from Elite League clubs.

It will be the sixth successive year the club have joined forces with the Stroke Association, promoting the F.A.S.T message – Face, Arms, Speech, Time – relating to recognising the symptoms of stroke.

Cradley's riders will be involved, whilst flying Birmingham top three Adam Ellis, Tom Perry and Zach Wajtknecht will also be in action on home soil.

Meanwhile, former Heathens' favourites and current Coventry heat-leaders Dan Greenwood and Darryl Ritchings will compete alongside Wilson-Dean. With more riders still to be announced, another top class night of action is in prospect.

Said club co-promoter Gary Patchett, who has assembled the field: "The Golden Hammer is our flagship meeting, and it seems like it goes from strength to strength as an event every year. This is arguably our best since we relaunched the club.

"The past tradition is to try and include the current Cradley team, former Cradley riders and also past winners which is something we've tried to continue this year.

"We'll have six of our current riders, with Nathan Greaves unfortunately likely to miss out because of his injury. He's set a comeback target, but I think the Golden Hammer early in August might be a touch ambitious."

GLASSBOY VETS SIGN BACK ON

SEVERAL of the Stourbridge FC squad have now committed themselves to the Glassboys for the coming season.

Amongst those to agree terms are triple Player of the Year award winner Chris Knight, who collected prizes from the Supporters, Manager and his fellow players at the club's end of season Presentation Night.

Also Brian Smikle, who was the Club Board/Committee's Player of the Year for 2014/15.

Also resigning will be the long-serving pair of Leon Broadhurst and Drew Canavan, with in excess of 550 and 300 appearances for the Glassboys under their belts.

And another member of the "300 Club" to sign up is goalkeeper Lewis Solly, who returned to the War Memorial Athletic Ground towards the end of last season, whilst Kayelden Brown will also line up for his third season at Amblecote.

Recruits

Newer recruits to commit are Chris Lait, Luke Connolly and Matt Dodd, all of whom joined the Glassboys in the second half of last season.

Completing the list of those staying are former Youth Team players Sam Tye and Lewis McPike, both of whom have impressed when given the opportunity. McPike is now "over-age" for the Youth Team and will be a fully-fledged member of the First Team squad.

Alongside recent signings Lee Chilton, Kristian Green, Stuart Pierpoint, Charlie Price, Daniel Scarr and Tom Tonks, the Stourbridge boss believes the Club now has the basis of a strong team to mount a challenge for promotion next season.

A decision is still awaited from striker Luke Benbow on his future, with Hackett waiting to hear whether the striker will accept the terms offered to him.

Looking ahead to the upcoming season, Hackett said: "We've got experience of the Northern Premier now and we'll be more confident. I'm convinced it's tougher than the Southern League.

With the signings we've bought in, I'm confident we will bounce back. It's still a work in progress."

Couple with a great track record

Eric and Pam Horwill's work has been recognised with an Unsung Heroes award from British Athletics

DURING more than six decades in athletics, there isn't much Eric and Pam Horwill haven't turned their hands to.

Whether it be competing internationally, coaching at Dudley and Stourbridge Harriers, or sitting on the board of Staffordshire Athletics to name just one association – if you can think of a role, the husband and wife from Wordsley have probably done it.

"It's a long story really," admits Pam with a chuckle. "We've been involved in quite a bit."

Their sterling work was recently recognised by British Athletics, who handed them an Unsung Hero Award. The couple run the club's youth section but that tells only a fraction of a story which began 64 years ago, when Pam, a keen cross country runner, joined the club, which was then Stourbridge and Wordsley.

"I remember watching Fanny Blankers-Koen, who was nicknamed the Flying Dutch Housewife, compete at the London Olympics in 1948," she said.

"I thought, I wouldn't mind having a go at that."

Pam would go on to compete at the national championships while Eric, who she met when they both attended Wordsley New Street Youth Club, achieved international recognition as a race walker and until recently was still competing at European Masters events.

Moxey voted on to Football League board

WOLVES chief executive Jez Moxey has been elected on to the Football League board.

After a vote of Championship clubs, Moxey – who has been at Wolves for 15 years – joined Brighton chief executive Paul Barber to represent the division on the board.

There are 10 members on the board, led by chairman Greg Clarke.

Moxey said: "It is a privilege and honour to have been voted onto the Football League board by colleagues from Championship clubs.

"I look forward to working with the chairman, CEO and the other directors of The Football League.

"I will do what I can to provide positive support, help and guidance on the various issues and challenges that the League faces.

"Part of the role is to protect and promote the interests of the Championship as well as the league as a whole and I will always keep the clubs at the forefront of my thinking."

Middlesbrough's Keith Lamb is the other Championship representative on the board.

They join Football League chief executive Shaun Harvey, independents Richard Bowker and Debbie Jevans, Millwall's Andy Ambler Scunthorpe's James Rodwell and Oxford's Ian Lenagan.

Ambler was re-elected after Millwall's relegation from the Championship.

Clarke said: "It gives me great pleasure to welcome Jez and Paul onto the board and to welcome Andy back.

"Each of them has enormous experience in professional football, as well as being widely respected by our clubs.

"I very much look forward to working with all three of them in the period ahead."

Yeltz get hands on ex-Villa youth player

HALESOWEN Town have continued with their eye-catching summer spree with the signing of former Villa youth player Darius Darkin.

Darkin, who was a striker in his Villa Park days before taking a more reserved role, made a handful of appearances for Studley last season and has also appeared for , Aylesbury United, Hinkley and Bedworth United since leaving Villa.

The attacker, who recently turned 21, joins up to John Hill's side ahead of the upcoming 2015/2016 season.

Yeltz boss Hill said: "Myself and Matty Clark are delighted to get Darius on board."

★★★

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